

Demirel: Syria trying to destabilise Turkey

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Turkish President Suleiman Demirel accused Syria of wanting to destabilise his country in an interview published here Sunday in Haaretz newspaper. "Syria is supporting terrorist organisations which conduct destabilising and separatist actions against Turkey," Mr. Demirel said. "Syria supports the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) to instigate a break-up of Turkey," Mr. Demirel said that the leaders of the group, which is fighting for a Kurdish country in southeast Turkey, are in Syria. "It seems that Damascus wants to strike a blow at Turkey's stability and weaken it, to encourage economic, social and political chaos in Turkey," he added. "So far," Mr. Demirel said, "500 Syrian Kurdish members of the PKK have been killed on Turkish territory. In the past year and a half, terrorists have infiltrated Turkish territory, where they killed 33 civilians, four members of the security services and seven military officers."

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King congratulates Saudi monarch

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday sent a cable to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia congratulating him on the occasion of his country's national day. The King wished King Fahd continued good health and happiness and the Saudi people further progress and prosperity. His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed, the personal representative of the King, also sent a cable of congratulations to King Fahd.

Bridges closed

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) said Sunday that the Sheikh Hussein Bridge and Wadi Araba crossing will be closed for Jordanians, Israelis and travellers from other nationalities on Sept. 23 and will be reopened on Sept. 24.

'Overall' decision taken to operate on Yeltsin

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin's daughter said on Sunday that "overall," the decision has been taken for her father to undergo heart surgery. Asked on Russian television if the decision to operate had been taken, Tatiana Diachenko replied: "Overall, yes." She added that "everyone is waiting" for a meeting of doctors on Wednesday to set an exact date.

Genscher in Syria for peace process talks

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Former German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher held talks Sunday in Damascus with Syrian leaders on the future of the Arab-Israeli peace process, an official said. Mr. Genscher's visit comes at a time when peace talks between Syria and Israel have been frozen for months. The former foreign minister met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, the official Syrian News Agency SANA said. According to Bonn, Mr. Genscher will travel from Syria to Egypt to meet President Hosni Mubarak.

Kuwait executes police officer for murder

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait on Sunday executed a police officer convicted of murder, the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. It said Captain Bader Al Bashir was sent to the gallows for the 1993 murder of a Syrian woman. He was also convicted of drug smuggling, a capital crime in Kuwait since 1995. Sunday's execution was the first this year in Kuwait and the 19th since the 1964 introduction of the death penalty, KUNA said.

EU to grant Yemen \$65m in aid

SANAA (R) — The European Union (EU) said on Sunday it planned to grant Yemen about \$65 million in aid over the next two years. "The European Union envisages that its overall aid for Yemen during the period between 1996 and 1998 could amount to approximately \$65 million," said Michael Kohler, the EU's desk officer for Yemen. "This aid will take the form of projects and food security assistance," Mr. Kohler told a news conference in Sanaa.

U.S. signals first firm indication of easing tension with Baghdad

Perry: Aircraft carrier could be moved away

Combined agency dispatches

THE UNITED STATES said it might edge back from the brink Sunday of another confrontation with Iraq even as U.S. tanks fired live practice rounds in Kuwait and hundreds more troops arrived here.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, who was in to Sweden on Sunday, said the Pentagon might send home one of its two aircraft carriers in the area, the USS Carl Vinson, "based on what happens between now and next week."

"I truly believe Iraq is backing off the threatening action they were taking a week ago," Mr. Perry told reporters aboard his flight to Stockholm.

But Mr. Perry said Washington would go ahead with the deployment to Kuwait of 3,500 extra troops. U.S. army officers said 2,600 troops had arrived in Kuwait since Thursday and hundreds more were to fly in later Sunday.

U.S. President Bill Clinton sent extra ground troops and a second aircraft carrier, the USS Enterprise, to the Gulf region after Iraq fired missiles at U.S. planes flying over Iraq two weeks ago.

President Saddam Hussein vowed to shoot down U.S. warplanes after U.S. forces hit his southern air defences and expanded the southern no-fly zone in retaliation for his incursion into northern Kurdish safe havens on Aug. 31.

But a U.S. official in the region said Sunday that Iraq has launched no missiles at allied warplanes since President Saddam announced Sept. 13 that his air defences would hold their fire.

The fresh troops from the First Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, Texas, will bolster 1,200 troops who have been on a regular training mission since August.

The original troops put M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks through their paces in the Kuwait desert on Sunday and fired off live rounds, while the new arrivals set up camouflaged desert camps and readied their equipment, officers said.

Meanwhile, warplanes from the USS Enterprise began patrols Saturday over the southern "no fly" zone, coordinating with warplanes from the Carl Vinson, which has been in the Gulf since July, as well as around 200 other U.S. and allied planes based in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The United States, Britain and France imposed the no-fly zone in the south in 1992 to protect Shiite Muslims from Iraqi attack. They imposed another north of the 36th Parallel to protect the Kurds in 1991.

Mr. Perry said Sunday that: "We have no plans at this time to send in any more forces and we'll make a decision about the carrier next week based on what happens between now and next week."

But he said the 3,500 extra troops sent to Kuwait in the past few days will stay at least for several months when the exercise they are taking in part concludes.

A decision by the Pentagon to send home the Vinson, which carries more 80 aircraft, would mark a significant first step towards easing a confrontation that at its peak drew threats from Mr. Perry of disproportionate strikes against Iraq.

Since it began, the Pentagon has sent eight F-117

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Saddam hails retaking control of north Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Sunday hailed the return of his influence in northern Iraq as well as his army's challenge to the United States in their latest confrontation.

"What took place amounts to an Arab and international recognition of Iraq's strength and demonstrated Iraqi unity," President Saddam told his cabinet at a late-night meeting reported by the official press early on Sunday.

He underlined "the amazing welcome that the sons of the Kurdish people gave our army when it entered Erbil."

On Aug. 31 Iraqi forces intervened in northern Iraq for the first time in five years to help the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) drive out its rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) from Erbil, the Kurdish capital in northern Iraq.

The United States retaliated by hitting Iraqi defences in southern Iraq with a barrage of 44 cruise missiles on Sept. 3-4. Iraqi forces later returned to their earlier positions.

President Saddam, who has ordered his army to defy allied-imposed no-fly zones over southern and northern Iraq, praised "the performance of the air-defence forces who challenged the planes and missiles of the American enemy."

"All Arabs and Iraqis must be proud of what our brave army achieved," he said.

"What happened in northern Iraq" as well as the confrontation with the United States "will have important repercussions on the morale of the Iraqi people and (Arab) Nation," he said.

"The Iraqi people and its brave armed forces have defeated foreign plots and

attempts to dismember the country by imposing (the no-fly zones) in the north and south," he said.

"U.S. officials have revealed their intentions by recognising that the aim of imposing these zones was to protect U.S. interests, especially oil, in the region," he added.

President Saddam announced after the first U.S. missile strike that the no-fly zones were null and void and urged his forces to shoot at U.S. and allied warplanes policing them. He later decided to suspend firing at these planes.

"Iraqi people and its armed forces have foiled the foreigner's conspiracies and his attempts to impose partition (in Iraq) through what is so called parallels in Iraq's north and south," he said.

The cabinet meeting also praised the "supportive stand toward Iraq" by Arab states.

The undersecretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry Saturday met his Egyptian counterpart in Cairo to ask for Egypt's support at the U.N. Security Council.

Riyad Al Qaisi "raised the matter of sanctions imposed on his country and Iraqi complaints against the U.N. Special Commission" in charge of assuring Baghdad's compliance with disarmament resolutions which is led by Rolf Ekeus, the Egyptian official, Abdul Al Safi, told journalists.

"He also gave us a memorandum to explain (before the Security Council) Iraq's position on this which we will study," Mr. Safi said.

Mr. Qaisi also held talks with an Egyptian Foreign Ministry legal affairs official on "Iraq's relations

Iraq seeks support

(Continued on page 7)

King, Netanyahu adviser discuss peace process, bilateral accords

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday held talks on the Middle East peace process with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political adviser Dore Gold, officials quoted by international news agencies said.

They said the King received Mr. Gold at the Royal Palace to discuss stalled Palestinian-Israeli talks over Palestinian self-rule and Israeli settlement expansion in the West Bank.

"The issue of settlements is of great concern to us," a Jordanian government official told Reuters, adding the agenda also covered bilateral issues stemming from the 1994 Jordan-Israeli peace treaty, including implementation of a trade accord.

Jordan says the level of trade, particularly between Jordan and the West Bank, remains well below levels anticipated in the agreement.

Senior Palestinian officials have warned Israel that its expansion of Jewish settlements in West Bank lands occupied in the 1967 Middle East war was leading Jews and Arabs towards "confrontation and disaster."

The Israeli embassy in Amman said later that Mr. Gold returned to West Jerusalem accompanied by Israel's Ambassador to Jordan Shimon Shamir before the start of the Jewish holy day Yom Kippur at sunset.

Officials quoted by AFP said the King discussed with Mr. Gold growing tensions in the region and ways to restart the Middle East peace process.



HEARING COMPLAINTS: French, Lebanese and Syrian delegations arrive at the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) headquarters in Naqoura, South Lebanon, on Sunday to meet Israeli and United States delegations in a five-nation committee monitoring a ceasefire understanding in Lebanon. The committee met to consider Israeli and Lebanese complaints following recent clashes between Israeli troops and Hizbollah guerrillas (Reuters photo)

Syria reiterates movements in Lebanon are defensive

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria has linked a recent redeployment of part of its troops in Lebanon to "increasing Israeli threats" but insisted the move was defensive.

"The measures taken regarding the Syrian troops in Lebanon are not distant from the increasing Israeli threats which we all heard in the recent period," Information Minister Mohammed Salmaan said in the first public word by a Syrian official on the redeployment.

The official Syrian news agency SANA quoted Mr. Salmaan as saying on Sunday in a telephone interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was "using the language of force and threats on all occasions."

"He (Netanyahu) visited occupied South Lebanon and after this visit in fact the pace of threats against Syria and Lebanon increased, therefore Syria or any other country has the right to take any measure that might increase and strengthen its forces to become in a better defensive position," Mr. Salmaan said.

Syria has in recent weeks redeployed about one third of its 35,000 troops in Lebanon, moving some to within striking distance of a key Israeli position on the occupied Golan Heights. The move caused war jitters in the Jewish state.

Mr. Netanyahu described it as an attempt by Syria to pressure Israel into unilateral concessions on the strategic Golan, occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

No peace talks have been held between Israel and Syria since the May election of Mr. Netanyahu as prime minister. Mr. Netanyahu rejects the land-for-peace formula and supports the increase of Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab lands.

Syria, which has held sporadic peace talks with Israel since 1991, wants Mr. Netanyahu to announce readiness to withdraw fully from the Golan ahead of any resumption of negotiations.

Asked whether the movements showed that Syria's patience was running out because of the stalemate in

"The talks focus on the peace process on all tracks," a Jordanian official told AFP. "They were also to cover the issue of expanding Jewish settlements in the autonomous West Bank, a matter of grave concern to Jordan."

Sources at the Israeli prime minister's office said Mr. Gold was to discuss tensions with Syria and the troubled Palestinian peace process.

King Hussein and Mr. Gold were also to explore means of "implementing bilateral agreements in all fields of cooperation," a Jordanian official told AFP.

The lightning trip was viewed as unusual coming just hours before the start of Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of atonement, at sundown when all non-emergency transport and other official activity comes to a sudden halt in Israel. Tensions have risen sharply between Israel and Syria — which launched a surprise invasion of the Jewish state on Yom Kippur 1973 — since a wave of unexplained redeployments of Syrian troops in Lebanon over recent weeks.

Mr. Netanyahu and other senior Israeli officials have issued reassuring statements over the past week that the Syrian actions, which included stationing elite combat units near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, posed no immediate threat to Israel.

It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Gold carried any message to be passed onto Syrian President Hafez Al Assad via the King.

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Jordan Times, Monday, September 23, 1996

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Queen opens two-day environmental workshop

AMMAN (J.T.) — According to a Royal Court Statement, a two-day Environmental Workshop for Senior Drama Scenarists was opened Monday by Her Majesty Queen Noor at the Forte Grand Hotel.

The environmental workshop was organised by the Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) of the Arab League in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), the statement said.

The Queen emphasised the need to utilise all forms of dramatic expression, be it comedy or drama to convey environmental messages and she expressed her appreciation of the commitment of renowned Arab artists who are pooling their talents to serve the environmental cause.

According to UNEP/ROWA's Regional Information and Communication Officer Maha Fahum, the workshop has gathered "24 prominent writers, producers and directors in the Arab World, including Dureid Lahham (also known as Ghawwar), Safiyyah Al Omari, Usamah Anwar Akasheh and Nabil Sawalha, to discuss means of communicating environmental messages through the mediums of television and cinema in order to raise environmental awareness and contribute to achieving sustainable development," the statement said.

"The workshop's presentations will range from energy and its pollutants, management of water resources, eco-management, the protection of marine ecology to preserving biodiversity, combating desertification and the role of grassroots organisations and the media in raising environmental awareness."

The statement continued that in his speech, Minister

of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Dr. Abdul Razzaq Tbeishat remarked that the Queen previously headed a national commission to develop environmental laws and played a vital role in rallying support for formulating Jordan's National Environmental Strategy, which was officially approved by the government in 1991.

He listed the country's environmental achievements which include ratifying more than 32 international environmental accords, passing the New Environment Law for 1995 and the establishment of the General Corporation for Environmental Protection. The latter has funded a national programme to substitute substances which deplete the ozone in industrial businesses with ozone-friendly ones. Dr. Nadirah Kubba of CAMRE has also implemented various sustainable development programmes, the statement said.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Theatre in Education (TIE) will also present a model of work to be applied by writers and directors and which does not involve large and expensive productions, but is aimed to be effective and easily comprehended by the public.

According to TIE's Programme Director Lina Tell-Batayneh: "We are presenting a scene following the methodology of theatre-in-education to promote concepts and themes related to social development where by one can disseminate information to the public through short scenes which involve audience participation in order to solve problems and to clarify themes through active participation."

UNEP/ROWA's Information, Communication and Public Awareness Programme (IEC), of which Queen Noor is a patron, aims at eliciting public participation in sustainable development strategies and

programmes by producing and disseminating publications and audio-visuals, establishing environmental outreach programmes, and promoting the implementation of environment-friendly technology and production.

The statement continued that the IEC's plans for the next two years include encouraging the production of a TV drama series dealing with environmental concerns that may be aired next Ramadan in addition to preparing a code of ethics for children and a guidebook on environmental issues. The latter will give tips on how to manage natural resources, save energy, reduce waste, avoid pollution and raise awareness on critical problems like desertification and hazardous waste.

IEC is also planning to organise a regional environmental conference for children to allow them "to voice their concerns and debate environmental issues" as well as an annual regional meeting for Global 500 Laureates.

The Global 500 Roll of Honour was launched in 1987 by UNEP to recognise the outstanding achievements of individuals and organisations in protecting and improving the environment. Queen Noor received the Award in June 1995 for "her activism in environmental protection, in promoting awareness and initiating community action for the preservation of Jordan's natural heritage."

UNEP/ROWA also runs an IEC programme that aims at raising awareness among the public decision-makers and eliciting their participation.

Former Minister of Social Development Salwa Damen-Masri accompanied Queen Noor to the event, the statement said.

UNRWA makes financial plea

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ten countries which form the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Advisory Commission Sunday opened a meeting in Amman to review a report slated for the UN General Assembly meeting this fall given by Commissioner General Peter Hansen.

Mr. Hansen gave a briefing of his draft report to the UN, allowing room for the Advisory Commission to include remarks and views for the final submission.

He also reviewed general services offered by UNRWA to Palestinian refugees in five areas: Jordan, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon and Syria.

The Advisory Commission includes Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, the U.S., Japan, the U.K., France, Belgium and Turkey and was established in the early 50s to be entrusted with assisting the Commissioner General in the continuity of the agency's services in the Middle East.

They are scheduled to discuss recurrent general deficits in the UNRWA's budget as well as the specific case of the 1996 deficit, heretofore amounting to \$45 million.

On the eve of the meeting, Director of UNRWA Operations in Jordan Robert Hopkins said that the agency faces an acute financial shortage and further warned that unless speedy action is taken to redress the situation, UNRWA would be forced to make very difficult decisions with conceivably negative repercussions.

He said that the donor nations, are expected to brainstorm ways of minimising the budget deficit that the agency might maintain its services to Palestinian refugees.

Mr. Masri said: "We do not want to reach a situation whereby we have to make cuts to the refugees in the time of their greatest need."

He said that "Mr. Hansen will ask the donors to dig deeper into their pockets [and that] money will have to come or drastic measures will be taken."

Suspect detained in connection with death of Shmeisani children

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Officials Sunday confirmed that the sudden death of two children in the Shmeisani district of Amman, nearly two weeks ago, was a criminal act and that an unnamed individual is being questioned in its connection.

According to an official source, investigations have reached final stages and "police have gathered leads and evidence which have pointed to a suspect."

The official did not elaborate further.

Hani Mazen Masri, nine, and her six-year-old brother Hani died of cyanide poisoning on the morning of

Sept. 11.

According to the official source, the suspect is someone close to the family with access to the children and is familiar with their daily routine.

Pathologist Mo'men Hadidi is heading the committee which performed the autopsy on the children and Sunday confirmed that results indicate that the act was a deliberate one.

"The final results indicate that it was a deliberate act, and when you deal with such criminal acts all possibilities are open," Dr. Hadidi said.

In commenting on the poisonous material (cyanide salt) which caused their death, Dr. Hadidi stressed

that cyanide is not widely distributed because "it is classified as a chemical and difficult to obtain."

According to the pathologist, cyanide is not in itself toxic, but when ingested, "certain chemical reactions take place."

Cyanide salt reacts with stomach acid thereby forming cyanide acid which is extremely toxic," he said, adding that cyanide acid "can kill in no time."

Cyanide causes respiratory failure. Symptoms include breath odour resembling bitter almonds.

But according to Dr. Hadidi, the odour disappears when combined with another substance.

"In my opinion, the person

who poisoned the children with the deadly substance has excellent knowledge of cyanide as well as access to the material or knows people who have access to it," Dr. Hadidi told the Jordan Times.

The two children had milk for breakfast at 6:45, then were left alone after their mother went to give her husband a ride to work.

Officials had initially ruled out food poisoning, suicide or the accidental consumption of a noxious substance.

Upon her return at 7:15, the mother found her children unconscious and rushed them to the hospital.

Hani was declared dead on arrival, while Hani died shortly thereafter.

Minister says grazing land becoming scarce

AMMAN (Petra) — The bill for imported cereals and animal feed is forcing Jordan to take practical steps to increase local production of grain and develop pasture lands.

ensuring sufficient animal feed for the country's livestock, Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Shneikat said Sunday.

Addressing the opening session of a two-day workshop organised to review population resource and livestock wealth studies covering the northeastern badia region, Dr. Shneikat said that the region provides poor pasture for the animals largely due to low rainfall.

Disorganised grazing, soil erosion and the fact that grazing is unrestricted

in the badia region are all reasons for the scarcity of shrubs and other sheep feed, said the minister.

Meanwhile, Dr. Shneikat Sunday announced the Ministry of Agriculture's decision to open all the natural forest lands of at least 15 years of age to grazing during the autumn.

The minister said that he instructed all agricultural departments in the various governorates to monitor grazing and to ensure professional supervision thereof.

In instructions to the heads of various agricultural departments, the minister stated that the livestock will be permitted to graze in the forest land regions solely during the autumn season.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

"Le Souper" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

CHINESE FILM WEEK

*Two Chinese films entitled "Natural Scenes from China" and "Drums at the Volcanic Mountain" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.

LECTURES

"Jerusalem's Arabism" by Dr. Hazem Nusseibah at the Orthodox Club, Abdoun at 7:00 p.m.

"Protection of Heritage and Environment in a Jordanian Valley — the Case of Jalal" by Mr. Ghazi Saudi at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 696682).

"The Struggle of Cultures and Ideologies" (Arabic) by A. Azrah Omar at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Plastic art by Iraqi artist Widad Ayal at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Sept. 26.

* Works by artists from France, Algeria, Turkey, Morocco, and Egypt entitled "Tapis Volants" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 24.

HRH Princess Basma leads NGO workshop to discuss gender issues

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) maintain an important role in tackling Arab women's concerns and these institutes should continue to play a vital role to insure equality and comprehensive social development for women in the future.

This was the main call leaders, NGOs and women's activists issued during the two-day Arab Non-Governmental Organisations' Regional Meeting slated to discuss a plan of action for Arab NGOs to follow up on the recommendations of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

HRH Princess Basma, who officially inaugurated the event, said NGOs play a vital role in women's development processes and that their cause "concerns human rights."

"It is clear that NGOs play a vital role for women's development and their fight against discrimination, so that they will be equal to men and be able to serve their community based on the Islamic Sharia and our Arab tradition," Princess Basma said.

The Princess further highlighted continual problems and struggles which Arab women still encounter.

"I am not adding anything new if I say that women in the Arab region still face the same problems, difficulties, and challenges," she said.

Such problems, the Princess maintained, are economic and women are especially vulnerable.

"Women are not moving forward and in most cases they are moving backwards instead of progressing, and they are not the priority in their society," she said.

Armed conflicts, the designation of resources to the military, and the purchase of weapons is the dominant aspect in the region, Princess Basma said.

"Today's gathering will hopefully be a new step for us to work hand in hand in serving Arab women, and improving their status," the Princess said.

Aman Kabarah Sharani, speaking on behalf of the representatives of participating Arab NGOs said that this conference should be responsible for forming a regional document concerning the role of NGOs to improve Arab women's status for the future.

The document, she added, should reflect Arab women's issues and their concerns as well as highlighting priorities with regard to the latest developments in the Arab world.

"We are aiming, through this conference, to encourage women's abilities, professions and hobbies that they might better surpass obstacles in accomplishing their goals," she told the gathering.

Dr. Sharani pointed to the unrest in the region and the armed conflicts "which have a negative effect on women and hinder their

progress."

"We need to exert more effort before we are able to fully secure social justice between men and women, rich and poor," she stressed, adding that there can be no democracy or human rights without equality between the sexes.

"A woman's fight is not solely her own but is the struggle of both men and women ... to build a more perfect society and civilised development," Dr. Sharani added.

Salwa Nasser, coordinator for the National Jordanian Committee for Women (NJCW), told the gathering that these concerns demonstrate a regional resemblance and that "we hope that participants will be able to draw an Arab document which reflects the status of Arab women."

The main topics being reviewed by the conference are: measures to fight poverty, promotion of gender equality, health and other basic services, combating violence against women, the consequence to women of armed conflicts, and the role of the media in reporting on women's issues.

The objective of the conference is to activate a process following up on the Fourth World Conference on Women Platform of Action in the Arab countries.

The conference also aims at sharing information about steps taken on a national level and to reach an agreement on the mechanisms for regional cooperation.

action based on national agreements.

Moreover, they plan to discuss issues of common interest such as institutional structures, legislation related to women and interpretation of the Islamic Sharia.

The conference will conclude today by drafting a document to be reviewed in a three-day group meeting on Sept. 25 to 27.

The document will then be reviewed by the ministers from various Arab countries in their two-day meeting in Amman on Sept. 28 and 29.

Representatives at the NGOs meeting and workshop hail from the following countries: Yemen, Lebanon, Egypt, Palestine, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Sudan, Kuwait, Tunisia, Oman, Djibouti and Jordan.

In addition, representatives from several United Nations organisations are participating and presenting working papers.

The meeting, held at the Regency Hotel, is organised by the NJCW in cooperation with participating NGOs in addition to a task force composed of representatives of the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

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September, 1996

4 more killed in S. Korean mass hunt for Northern infiltrators

KANGNUNG, South Korea (AFP) — Gunbattles between fugitive North Korean commandos and South Korean troops left another four dead Sunday as infiltrators from a beached submarine continued to elude their hunters.

The Northern and Southern sides lost two soldiers each as tens of thousands of South Korean troops kept up the chase.

Twenty North Koreans have now been killed since their submarine ran aground last Wednesday some 100 kilometres south of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas.

"Five more fugitives are probably still at large and holed up in the mountains near the northeastern city of Kangnung," a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

So far only one North

Korean intruder has been captured alive.

One of the two North Koreans killed early Sunday in an exchange of grenades and rifle fire was wearing a South Korean army uniform, the spokesman said.

The two, including the captain of the wrecked 325-tonne reconnaissance submarine, opened fire when surrounded by soldiers, he said.

The five-day sweep has left three South Korean soldiers dead, including an army paratrooper who died Saturday after being shot in the head.

Some 40,000 South Korean troops and reserves are involved in the dragnet, with helicopters dropping off paratroopers deep into the mountains around Kangnung during their daylight operations.

Fighter jets swooped overhead Sunday as South Korean soldiers carrying mortars and machine guns crept up the hills following tracker dogs.

At dusk, heavily armed South Korean soldiers painted their faces black as though taking part in a night ambush.

The sole captive told interrogators the sub had carried 26 people on a mission to drop off agents. He also reportedly said North Korean submarines had carried out spy operations along the South Korea's east coast for a year.

Intelligence authorities said 11 of the dead, found in a group Wednesday and thought to have committed suicide at first, appeared to have been executed by colleagues on orders from Pyongyang.

The 11 included a North Korean colonel. Each one had been shot in the back of the head.

The killings sparked speculation that the colonel, identified by the sole prisoner as Kim Dong-Won, 50, was too big an intelligence catch to risk being captured.

The captive allegedly said the colonel was in charge of sea transport for agents in the North's Military Intelligence Department.

The infiltration triggered a security alarm in the South, which has technically been at war with the North since 1953 despite an armistice. The U.N. Security Council voiced serious concern over the sea incursion.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said the United States strongly urged North Korea "to refrain from all such acts in the future."

But Mr. Burns said Washington and Seoul "want to go ahead with the four-party (peace) talks, because this represents the largest ambition and objective that we have" to achieve peace on the Korean peninsula.

The offer for four-party talks, with China and the United States in supporting roles, was made in April, but the Communist North has balked at accepting it.

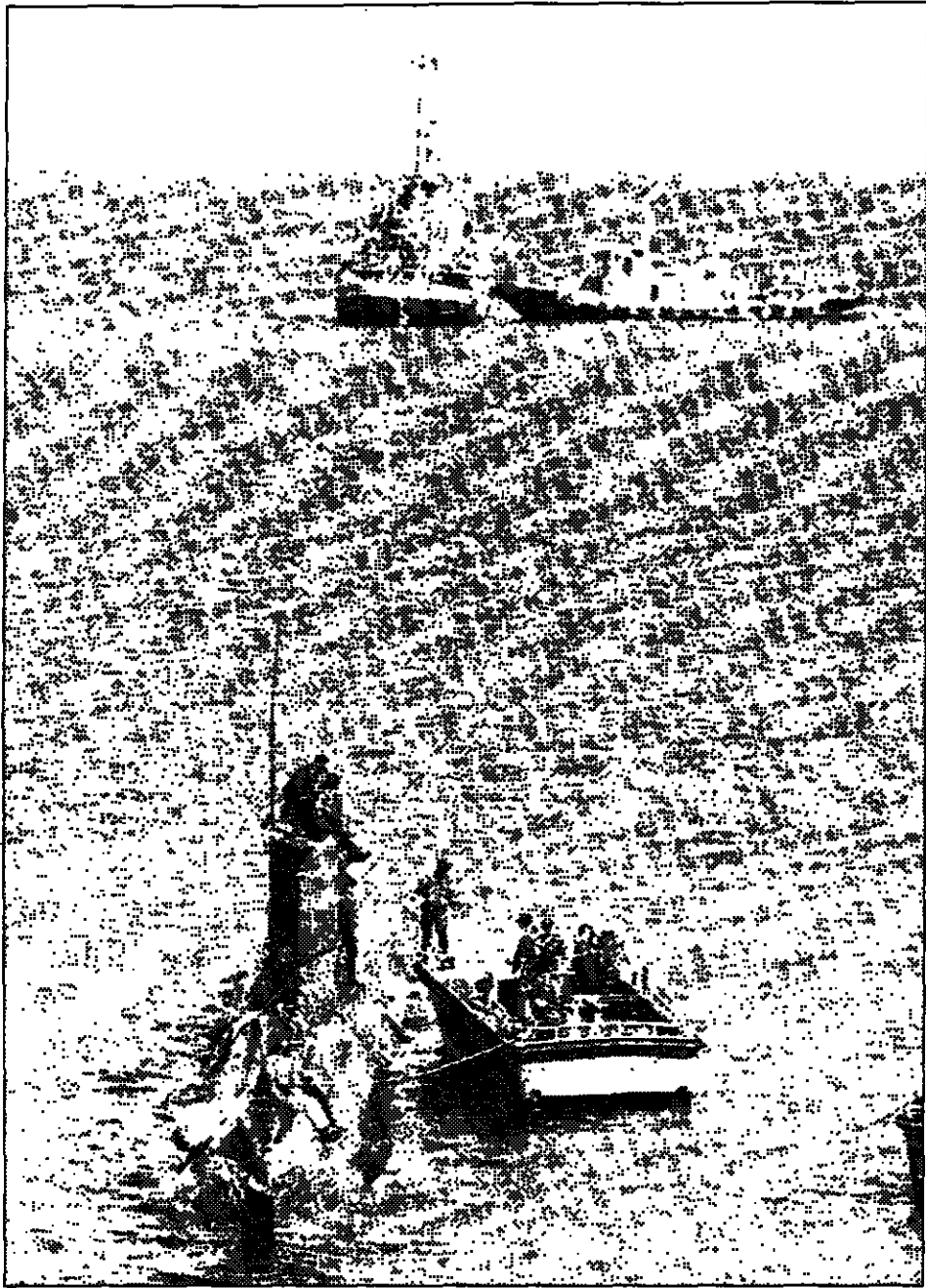
South Korean Foreign Minister Gong Ro-Myung warned that the infiltration was "bound to affect" international food aid to the impoverished North, crippled by chronic food shortages.

But he too stressed the peace talks offer would be pushed.

In an incident unrelated to the infiltration drama later Sunday, a South Korean army private, armed with a rifle and dozens of rounds of ammunition, was involved in a confrontation with troops after deserting from his barracks near the inter-Korean border, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

The deserter fled into a nearby border area, which had been mined to prevent North Korean infiltrations, after opening fire at random and throwing two hand grenades into a kitchen and barracks at his unit, the spokesman said. Nine soldiers were wounded in the incident.

Several of the soldiers attacked by the deserter were wounded seriously and rushed to a military hospital, he said.



A North Korean submarine is towed by a South Korean naval vessel to Tonghae Port from Kangnung in South Korea Sunday. The submarine, suspected of carrying about 26 North Korean infiltrators, ran aground on an east coast beach on Sept. 18 with several spies still at large and the subject of a massive manhunt (Reuters photo)

Pope ignores protests as he caps French visit

REIMS, France (AFP) — Pope John Paul II capped a four-day visit to France Sunday with a large open-air mass which has sparked a historical row here, ignoring protests by militant secularists opposed to his trip.

As demonstrators gathered in Paris, the 76-year-old Pontiff travelled to the northeastern city of Reims to celebrate the 1,500th anniversary of the baptism of Frankish King Clovis, the first Roman Catholic monarch in Europe. Secularists claim the Pope's celebration of the Reims mass compromises France's status as a secular republic, in which church and state were formally separated under a 1905 law.

A national demonstration was planned during the day in Paris, called for by a grouping of more than 60 secularist, homosexual and other campaign groups. More than 2,000 people attended an anti-papal demonstration in Tours Saturday.

In his Sunday morning sermon before 180,000 Catholics from France and Belgium, the Pope celebrated Clovis' conversion, which he has said makes France "the eldest daughter of the church."

"Fifteen centuries ago, Clovis the king of the Franks received the sacrament... Baptism freed him from original sin and from every sin he had committed... His compatriots, baptised with him, received the same gifts."

The trip to France, Pope John Paul's fifth as Pope, has divided a nation which like many Western states has a flagging interest in organised religion. Nearly 80 per cent of French people are baptised, but only six million attend church out of a population of 57 million.

In Tours Saturday more than 2,000 protesters took to the streets as Pope John Paul II celebrated a mass for handicapped and marginalised people in a nearby basilica.

His hardline views on key moral and sexual issues such as abortion and contraception are increasingly criticised in the age of AIDS, of which France has the largest number of sufferers in Europe.

The Polish-born Pontiff has claimed all along that the trip to France is a "pilgrimage" to a series of sacred shrines, and dismissed any question of political intervention.

The ailing Pontiff, who is to have an appendix operation on Oct. 6, again appeared on form Sunday morning as he addressed the huge crowds gathered under gloomy skies at an air base outside Reims for the open-air mass.

Greek Socialists face strong poll challenge

ATHENS (R) — Greeks voted Sunday in an election seen as a close-run contest between Socialist Premier Costas Simitis and his conservative challenger Kostas Karamanlis.

Mr. Simitis, 60, strongly pro-European in contrast to his predecessor, the late Andreas Papandreu, called the snap election confident he was leading in public opinion polls.

But he has found himself neck and neck with the conservatives after a lacklustre campaign.

Mr. Evert, 57, who launched a strong campaign and did not shy away from issuing populist promises could well find himself the winner of this contest, pollsters said.

About 8.5 million Greeks were required to cast a mandatory vote at polling stations around the country, which opened at sunrise at 0413 GMT and close at sunset at 1620 GMT.

The Socialists, in their first national election without flamboyant founder Andreas Papandreu, who died earlier this year, are leading in public opinion polls but within the margin of error.

Polls showed unprecedented voter apathy and a turn to smaller parties, reflecting public indifference to both the personalities and issues of the campaign.

But his academic rhetoric, often accompanied by charts, failed to rouse the hard-core Socialists used to Papandreu's more passionate style, which got him three landslide victories in 1981, 1985 and 1993.

Mr. Evert banked on Mr. Simitis' calls for more work and sacrifices so that Greece can catch up with its EU partners to lose the Socialist votes. He promised rises in pensions and a relaxation in taxation.



A woman struggles with her broken umbrella to provide at least some shelter from Typhoon Violet hitting Tokyo Sunday. Two people have been killed and eight injured in addition to the forced cancellation of nearly 200 domestic flights (Reuters photo)

2 die, 6 missing as typhoon slams into Tokyo region

TOKYO (AFP) — A typhoon packing winds of up to 217 kilometres an hour swept across the eastern coast of Japan Sunday, leaving two people dead and six others missing while triggering dozens of landslides.

More than 200 domestic and international flights were cancelled and train services were disrupted by typhoon Violet, which swept along the east coast from a southerly direction.

Police said a motorist in Kanagawa prefecture south of Tokyo died when a tree crushed his car. Three passengers were reportedly injured in the accident.

A six-year-old boy died in a landslide in Fukushima prefecture north of the capital and six other people were reported missing, including three surfers and a 62-year-old man swept into a river in Chiba prefecture east of Tokyo.

In Tateyama, a port on the southern tip of the Boso peninsula, 100 homes were flooded and another 1,500 were without power, Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) reported. Trucks were overturned and trees uprooted.

Record rainfall of eight centimetres an hour was reported in Sodegaura east of Tokyo, the Meteorological Agency said.

Many central Tokyo roads were flooded and 40 landslides were reported around the capital.

"We're gathering information," Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said when asked about the typhoon.

At Narita Airport, 18 international arrivals and departures were cancelled and 32 incoming flights were diverted to other airports, a spokesman said.

The domestic airport at Haneda was more seriously affected with 195 flights cancelled. All Nippon Airways (ANA), the main domestic carrier, suspended 103 flights including all incoming services, officials said. Three other carriers cancelled a further 92 flights.

East Japan Railway suspended services on 13 separate train lines, including bullet-train services between Tokyo and Osaka as well as services to Narita Airport. Keisei Electric Railway suspended its services to Narita, which is 60 kilometres from central Tokyo.

Up to 25 centimetres of rain was expected to fall on Tokyo up until Monday morning, the Meteorological Agency said.

An earthquake with a magnitude of 3.3 on the Richter Scale rocked the Tokyo area just before noon. The epicentre was 50 kilometres below the seabed in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of the Boso peninsula.

While the Japanese archipelago is battered by more than a dozen typhoons every year, few come close to the capital. The last typhoon to approach the Tokyo area in 1993 left two people dead in northern Japan.

Armenians, hoping for a better life after five hard years of independence, voted Sunday in an election pitting President Levon Ter-Petrosyan against his former prime minister in a bid for a new five-year term.

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan has led the country through a time of acute economic hardship caused partly by a protracted confrontation with neighbouring Azerbaijan over its largely-Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Voters filed into polling stations in the capital Yerevan in bright sunshine. The 2.4 million electorate in the mountainous Caucasus state sandwiched between Iran, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey had until 10 p.m. (1800 GMT) to cast ballots.

Ballot papers listed four presidential candidates but only Mr. Ter-Petrosyan, an at times aloof academic running for a second and final five years in office, and ex-Prime Minister Vazgen Manukyan appear to have a realistic chance of winning.

If no candidate wins more than 50 per cent of the votes, a second round runoff will be held in two weeks.

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan, 51, casting his ballot in central Yerevan, said he was "very encouraged" by his chances and hailed the vote as a milestone in establishing Armenia as a democratic state.

Mr. Manukyan, 50, who has made sweeping promises to raise living standards quickly in the impoverished country, predicted victory as he voted at a polling station in the Armenian Writer's Union in the early morning.

"People understand what is happening in the country and they want to live better," he said, accompanied by his wife.

The contest between the two former close allies, both of whom played big roles in leading Armenia to independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, has become bitter.

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan, who disdains what he calls "election propaganda," has made few promises, focusing on stability, recent economic progress and battlefield victories

over neighbouring Azerbaijan in an eight-year war over territory.

But sensing his rival gaining ground, he launched blistering attacks in the closing hours of the campaign saying that a Manukyan presidency would bring "tyranny and chaos."

He said a coalition government proposed by Manukyan would make the country ungovernable and raise the prospect of a civil war, reverse triumphs against the Azeris and threaten the very existence of Armenia as an independent state.

Mr. Manukyan has pledged to revive industry and improve the lot of the average person, still hurting from economic collapse brought on by the war and the demise of the Soviet Union.

Armenia, a country of 3.5 million people, suffered chaos and misery when the Soviet empire began to break up, embroiled in conflict with Azerbaijan over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. Fighting has since been brought to an end by a ceasefire.

Many people are still poor but the economy has begun to recover.

Some voters expressed their preferences after casting ballots in the capital's working-class Sovetskoye district.

"Ter-Petrosyan is a good man and I've supported him for five years. But everyone is so poor now. I haven't had a steady job for five years and neither has my wife," said Ovik Yegezyan, a 37-year-old father of two who voted for Manukyan.

Orange-haired 70-year old Seda Khachaturova, struggling out of the polling station with a cane, backed Mr. Ter-Petrosyan in the belief that he represented stability. "He started and let him finish. Why change now?" she said.

Several dozen international observers were on hand to monitor voting. They say they hope to avoid irregularities which marred a parliamentary poll last year.

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Fergie, Costner at Deng's favourite eatery

BEIJING (R) — The favourite restaurant of China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping has become the latest victim of his economic reforms.

Flamboyant Hong Kong businessman David Tang has taken over the Sichuan restaurant, poured \$8 million into renovation and turned it into what is arguably the plushiest place to eat out in China.

The rich and famous graced the opening of the China Club Beijing, in the back of a grey, narrow alley along Xidan, one of the capital's main shopping streets, Saturday.

The Duchess of York, estranged wife of Britain's Prince Andrew, flew in for the event, wearing a low-cut green velvet dress.

American director and actor Kevin Costner showed up for what he described as a "friend."

"Sometimes when your friends have important things happening in their life, it's important to travel, be a part and with them," Costner told reporters as Mr. Tang smiled and looked on.

Mr. Tang, a socialite who counts the duchess and Princess Diana among his close friends, said he went to great pains to restore the 10,000-square-metre Chinese compound with houses around a courtyard built in the 16th century.

Thousands swim in Taiwan for record books

TAIPEI (AFP) — More than 12,000 Taiwanese took to the waters of a lake here Sunday in a bid to win a place in the Guinness Book of Records for the largest number of people swimming at the same time in a lake.

"As far as I know, this is a new Guinness record. A total of 12,562 people finished the 2.5 kilometres cross-lake swimming in the Sun Moon Lake (in central Taiwan) in about four hours," Tai Sheng-Yi, president of the Taiwan branch of the Guinness World of Records Museum, said.

He said he would send the record to the British headquarters for formal approval. Organiser Lin Yuan-Lang said the swimmers included a four-year-old boy, 216 physically handicapped people, one blind man, and 115 couples over 50 years old.

This was the 13th year his local government had organised the cross-lake swim and the largest turn out to date, Mr. Lin said. In the first year, only some 500 took part, he added.

Jackson cancels Casablanca concerts

RABAT (AFP) — U.S. singer Michael Jackson has cancelled the two concerts he was to have given this month in the Moroccan city of Casablanca, one of the organisers said here. Samira Ketiri said she had received a letter from Jackson's impresario Teddy Lakis announcing without explanation the cancellation of the concerts, originally scheduled for Sept. 27 and 29.

Ms. Ketiri, commercial director of a major Casablanca hotel, said the Moroccan authorities had given their approval and preparations were almost complete.

She described the cancellation as a heavy blow to the local tourist industry, which had received thousands of bookings to see the Jackson show, part of the singer's current world tour.

Ms. Ketiri said she had been invited to Jackson's concert in Zaragoza, Spain, and would make an effort to persuade him to appear in Morocco before the end of the year.

Meanwhile, press reports in neighbouring Tunisia said the singer would perform in Tunis on Oct. 7 in a stadium with a capacity of some 50,000. Ticket prices would range from \$25 to \$250.

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Activists of the Pakistan Peoples Party burn tyres in Lahore to protest over the killing of their leader Murtaza Bhutto, son of the former prime minister, the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Sunday. Murtaza Bhutto was killed in a gun-battle between his guards and police just few yards from his residence in Karachi on Sept. 20 (Reuters photo)

Clashes block Pakistan president's condolence call

LARKANA, Pakistan (R) — Demonstrators clashed with police Sunday outside the house of Murtaza Bhutto, the slain brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, blocking a condolence call by President Farooq Leghari.

Witnesses said the demonstrators chased away police as Mr. Leghari's motorcade approached the area in Larkana in Sindh province, forcing the president to withdraw.

They said about 250 supporters of Murtaza accused Benazir's husband of conspiring in the death of their leader in a shootout with police Friday.

The demonstrators attacked police with sticks and stones, chanting anti-government slogans. Police retaliated in kind, but there was no gunfire.

Murtaza's sobbing Lebanese widow, Ghinwa, urged supporters to remain calm and patient until a government-ordered inquiry completed its findings about the incident.

"Even today people were raising slogans and I have asked them, let us curse the killers but let us not take names now," Ghinwa told reporters as her 12-year-old grief-stricken stepdaughter, Fatima, sat beside her.

She said she would stay in Pakistan but had not made up her mind whether to take part in politics.

A spokesman for Murtaza's Shaheed Bhutto group said the police had arrested

3,000 members in a "massive crackdown."

Inside the house, grim-faced relatives and friends watched in silence as the bloodstained sheets in which Murtaza had been wrapped before Saturday's funeral were cleared away.

Murtaza, 42, was shot and killed, with six of his followers, in a clash with police in Karachi Friday night. Another of his supporters died of his wounds Saturday, newspapers said.

Surviving members of the powerful Bhutto political dynasty came together at the family's ancestral home in Larkana to pay their last respects to Murtaza, who was estranged from his older sister for much of his turbulent life.

His death has visibly shaken Benazir, who inherited the leadership of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) founded by their executed father, former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

She spent 90 minutes at Murtaza's house Saturday night with her Iranian-born mother Nusrat, who has made no public comment on her son's violent death. She lost another son, Shah Nawaz, who died, apparently poisoned, in France in 1985.

The two women were expected to visit the family grave later in the day, the second day of official mourning.

Murtaza's Shaheed Bhutto faction of the PPP calling for 10 days of mourning and

a three-day strike accused Benazir's husband Asif Ali Zardari Sunday of engineering his death.

A statement issued by Zafar Arif, a member of the central committee of Murtaza's faction, said Mr. Zardari had held secret talks with "criminal elements" in the security forces last week.

"The murder of Murtaza Bhutto is the direct result of these conspiracies," the statement said.

No comment was immediately available from Mr. Zardari, who is also investment minister in his wife's government.

Police say Murtaza's guards fired first in the shootout, but opposition politicians disputed their account and the Sindh provincial government set up a judicial inquiry.

Sindh Chief Minister Abdullah Shah said he wanted a separate police investigation to complete its report within three days and appealed for calm after reports of scattered violence.

Opposition leader Nawaz Sharif accused the government of "state terrorism" against its political opponents.

Imran Khan, former Pakistan cricket captain who now leads an opposition party, said he did not understand what had led to the shootout. "Like all Pakistanis, we feel very sad about Murtaza Bhutto's death," he told Reuters Television.

"It's very tragic and I send my condolences to the family."

More than 10,000 mourners watched as Murtaza was buried between the graves of his father and younger brother, Benazir and Nusrat stayed away from the burial because of the crowds.

Pakistan newspapers condemned police Sunday for killing the prime minister's estranged brother and demanded an inquiry.

"There should be no cover-up and the guilty, regardless of their influence, should be punished," the English-language daily The Nation urged. "The Karachi police, a creation of the present government, has become a Frankenstein now. The monster needs to be defanged and brought under proper discipline."

It said it would be irresponsible to blame a grieving Benazir for the death of her only surviving brother, but added: "It is inevitable that some of the responsibility for this tragic outcome of the police action would devolve on her."

The Karachi-based Dawn newspaper said police had been given a free hand in the past to quell militants of the city's Mohajir National Movement (MQM), but were now out of control.

"If there was a time when the foremost task in Karachi was to rein in the monster of terrorism unleashed by the MQM, the task is now wholly different," the paper said.

"It is to check the brutality and trigger-happiness of a police force which has imbibed one overriding lesson from its drive against the MQM: To shoot first and ask questions later."

The News said the killing would have serious political repercussions at a time when all was not well for Benazir.

"She will be most affected as inevitably the finger of guilt will be pointed at her, even though the accusation will be difficult to believe, as not only was Murtaza her brother, regardless of their political differences, but because he posed no threat to her," the English-language daily said.

"The government would do well to institute an immediate inquiry into the matter by a high court judge to determine the facts behind the incident and identify the culprits."

Taiwan, Hong Kong launch new anti-Japan protests

TAIPEI (R) — Thousands marched through Taiwan's capital Taipei Sunday denouncing Japan's claim of sovereignty over a chain of uninhabited East China Sea Islands as a rusty tanker sailed from Hong Kong on a protest voyage.

Three protest vessels were also set to leave for the islands later Sunday from northern Taiwan.

Between 5,000 and 10,000 demonstrators, accompanied by a band of drummers and chanting "down with Japanese militarism," waved flags of Taiwan's exiled Republic of China government and shouted "protect the Diaoyus" as the march wound its way through Taipei.

Dozens of activists from Hong Kong and Macau also took part in the rally, sparked by Japan's claim to the islands, known in Chinese as the Diaoyus and in Japanese as the Senkakus.

An effigy of Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto was tied to the front of a car and flogged.

"The Diaoyu Islands belong to the Chinese," protester Wei Tsu-Chun told Reuters. "We Chinese people cannot be bullied by any country. We cannot tolerate any country invading our territory."

The dispute erupted in July after Japanese ultrarightists erected a lighthouse on one of the islands, angering rival claimants Taiwan and China. Taiwanese anger has swelled in recent days after Tokyo sent patrol ships to repel private vessels that try to approach the islands.

"Every Chinese person is furious when we hear Japan occupies our Diaoyu Islands," protester Chiang Shu-Fan said. "I wish they would leave immediately."

Hong Kong protesters set sail on a rusty tanker for the islands to play cat-and-mouse with Japanese warships and to try to assert Chinese sovereignty over the isles.

Hong Kong, a British colony on the south coast of China, reverts to Chinese rule next year.



Activist David Chan makes a 'peace' sign as he waves a Chinese flag from aboard a freighter outfitted as a protest ship moored in Hong Kong harbour Sunday. Mr. Chan, leader of the Alliance of Worldwide Chinese Protection of Diaoyu Islands, heads a group of protestors and journalists who will sail to the Diaoyu Islands, or Senkakus in Japanese, a group of islands in the East China Sea which are claimed by Japan, China and Taiwan. The banner says 'Chinese people require the Japanese people to get out of Chinese waters immediately' (Reuters photo)

The 2,800-tonne cargo tanker, carrying 18 anti-Japanese activists, 19 crew and 42 journalists, wove its way through a flotilla of yachts bobbing on one of the world's busiest shipping lanes as it began its three-day journey.

A banner across the bow of the ship boldly stated the mission's intention. "We, the Chinese people, request that you, the Japanese, leave Chinese waters," it said.

Taiwan and Hong Kong activists said they planned to leave northern Taiwan late Sunday to sail to the islands northeast of Taiwan and southeast of Japan's Okinawa to hoist the rival flags of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan's Republic of China.

"If we have a chance we will definitely land on the island. We will tear down the lighthouse, burn the Japanese flag and hoist our own national flag," organizer and Taipei County Assemblyman Chin Chieh-Shou told Reuters.

Taiwan said Saturday it was prepared to defend the Diaoyus, but only as a last resort. Taiwan's Foreign

Ministry is expected to hold a second round of talks with Japan next month on rival claims to fishing waters around the islands.

Taiwan and China have been bitter rivals since a civil war split them in 1949 when the Republic of China government, defeated by the Communists, took refuge on the island.

Japan took the islands as war booty after defeating imperial China in 1895. Beijing and Taipei say Chinese claims go back centuries but both have resisted calls to expel Japan by force.

Many Taiwan people have criticised their government for taking too conciliatory a stance towards Tokyo and some even suggested that Taipei enlist mainland China's help.

Hong Kong activists have been even more vocal, urging China to respond with force to Japan's territorial assertion.

A group of paroled Taiwan criminals have announced a "dare-to-die" mission to bomb the Japanese lighthouse.

Meanwhile, China has

conducted large scale military manoeuvres off its northeastern coast, a newspaper revealed Sunday, in an apparent warning to Japan over a disputed island chain.

The joint army, air force and navy exercises were carried out on Sept. 13 and 14 and involved mock blockades and landings on a group of unidentified islands off Liaoning province, the Liberation Army Daily said.

Marines, amphibious tanks, landing craft and air support were used during the manoeuvres, using personnel from the Shenyang military region.

The timing of the war games and the publicity given by the newspaper provide a thinly disguised warning to Tokyo amid an ongoing row over recent Japanese incursions in the Diaoyu Islands.

According to the newspaper, the war games involved a blockade of the unnamed islands by the navy and air force, followed by an invasion and occupation exercise conducted by Chinese marines.

Clinton, Dole to hold 2 debates, shun Perot

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton and his Republican challenger Bob Dole will hold two televised debates in October — without third-party candidate Ross Perot, a spokesman for the Dole campaign said.

"They (the negotiations) are settled," Sen. Dole's spokesman Gary Koops told AFP Saturday. "We're looking forward to one-on-one debates with Bill Clinton."

The Clinton camp had pushed to include Mr. Perot, the feisty Texas billionaire, but the Dole campaign had refused. Many analysts believe Mr. Perot could take more votes from Sen. Dole than from President Clinton, a Democrat.

Neither the Clinton campaign nor the Perot campaign could be immediately reached for comment.

However, lawyers for Mr. Perot's Reform Party have vowed to file suit Monday seeking to participate in the presidential debates.

Jamin Raskin, a constitutional law professor at American University here, said the lawsuit would argue that the bipartisan Commission on Presidential Debates was an "illegal entity" that did not follow its own criteria when it decided to exclude Mr. Perot from upcoming debates.

"Mr. Perot passes all objective tests," Mr. Raskin said.

Mr. Perot reacted angrily last week when the commission recommended that he be excluded from this year's debates because he does not have a realistic chance of winning the election.

Four years ago, with his chance of victory no brighter than today, Mr. Perot quickly became a credible voice simply by sharing the debate stage with President George Bush and Bill Clinton.

"It meant he was to be taken as seriously as the major-party candidates," Gerald Posner, author of the recently published biography Citizen Perot, said in an interview with the Philadelphia Inquirer. "You can't buy that, or earn it, without the imprimatur of the debates."

Which is exactly why Mr. Perot complained so vehemently last week after the bipartisan 10-member commission issued its recommendation.

"Presidential debates are important because 80 million people watch them," Mr. Perot declared. "Any candidate who is excluded from these debates cannot present his views to the 80 million voters under any manner."

"If I can't get on television, I can't get the message out," he added Friday.

The prime motive for the commission's decision, he contended, "is to protect and preserve Washington's corrupt political practices."

According to Mr. Koops, there will be two presidential debates lasting 90 minutes. The first will take place in Hartford, Connecticut, on Oct. 6, and a second will occur Oct. 16 in San Diego, California.

A debate between Vice-President Al Gore and Republican vice-presidential candidate Jack Kemp, also lasting 90 minutes, will take place on Oct. 9 in Florida, the Dole spokesman said.

New Japanese party launched with 51 MPs

TOKYO (AFP) — Defectors from two of Japan's three ruling parties joined independent lawmakers

Sunday to launch a new political party which is targeting a fifth of the seats up for grabs in general elections expected next month.

The unofficial launch of the new Democratic Party at a Tokyo hotel came only five days before Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is expected to dissolve parliament shortly after it resumes sitting Thursday.

Mr. Hashimoto, who heads the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the dominant coalition partner, has reportedly chosen Oct. 20 as the date for the election, the first in almost 3-1/2 years.

"We should create a party in which citizens play the leading role," Health and Welfare Minister Naoto Kan told the afternoon gathering which attracted about 1,000 people including 51 lawmakers.

The popular minister, an outgoing member of New Party Sakigake, the smallest in the coalition, is widely expected to lead the new party.

While the new party wants to be seen as a third force behind the LDP and the opposition New Frontier Party, recent polls have indicated that it could attract roughly as many votes as the opposition party.

The LDP currently has 206 seats in the 511-seat lower house while New Frontier has 167.

"We must create a Democratic Party which is not controlled by Kasumigaseki," Mr. Kan said, referring to the area in central Tokyo where

most government offices are located, often used to describe Japan's powerful bureaucracy.

"That's the difference between us and the LDP and the New Frontier Party," the health and welfare minister said, speaking in front of the party's new red logo unveiled Friday.

Among the 51 lawmakers who attended the gathering Sunday were 30 members of the left-wing Social Democratic Party (SDP) chaired by former Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama along with 14 members of Sakigake. Among the SDP members of parliament was Pct and Telecommunications Minister Ichiro Hino.

Also present were five members of a group known as the Citizen's League, including former SDP Chairman Sadao Yamahana who left the party last year after failing to get support for internal reforms from the party's left wing.

During Sunday's gathering, the new party endorsed 79 candidates for the coming election.

Yukio Hatoyama, who recently quit Sakigake to set up the new party with his younger brother Kunio from the New Frontier Party, told prospective party members that they should aim to capture 100 seats in the lower house.

In addition to fielding 200 candidates in the 300 single-seat constituencies being fought for under a new electoral system, Mr. Hatoyama said the party would also field "several dozen" candidates in the 200 seats being contested under a new proportional representation system.



Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (right) with other officials, offers prayers at her residence in Larkana Sunday for her estranged brother Murtaza Bhutto (Reuters photo)

British Liberals prepare for election battle

BRIGHTON, England (R) — The curtain went up Sunday on Britain's most crucial party conference season for years when Liberal Democrat activists arrived in the southern resort of Brighton to set out their general election wares.

But political observers questioned whether the annual gathering of Britain's third party represents act one of the main political drama, or a snow on the fringe.

For while the Labour opposition and ruling Conservatives hope to use their conferences in the following two weeks as launchpads for an election victory next April or May, the Liberals aspire merely to influence in the next parliament.

At best, say political pundits, the party could win 30-40 seats in the 659-member House of Commons, and find itself the junior partner in a coalition with Labour, which would be the first non-Conservative government in Britain since 1979.

Party leader Paddy Ashdown, asked on BBC Television about his ambitions for the election, replied: "As many seats as we can get and as many Liberal Democrat votes as we can achieve across the country."

The Liberals, who struggle against a British electoral system which benefits their bigger rivals, at present hold 25

parliamentary seats — comparative luxury for a party which almost disappeared from the House of Commons in the 1950s.

Yet although, following abysmal Conservative performances since the 1992 general election, they are now the second party in local government, their hopes for a breakthrough in national politics could be thwarted by the "Blair factor."

In making his party favourite to win the forthcoming election — it leads the Conservatives by 20 points in the polls — moderate leader Tony Blair has stolen liberal clothes.

Labour has adopted constitutional reforms such as a bill of rights which were once the smaller party's trade mark, and has moved much closer to the Liberals' pro-European stance.

But Mr. Ashdown said electors would have to ask themselves what Labour now stood for after Blair had ditched so many of its traditional socialist beliefs.

"What do they believe in? How deep does the Blair revolution go? People don't ask these sort of questions about the Liberal Democrats," he told interviewer David Frost.

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On road to equality

IN AN unprecedented move to enhance the status of women and promote equality between the sexes, the government decided Saturday to entrust the National Committee for Women under the leadership of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma with sweeping powers to formulate policies, define priorities and chart plans of action to accomplish that objective. The committee will be well-placed to propose operational ideas on how to improve the status of women in a country, like most other countries, still dominated by men. Official and non-official figures from both the public and private sectors who comprise the committee have been given a clear mandate to examine the issue of equality between the genders in the country on a scale never experienced before.

Equal treatment of all Jordanians irrespective of their sex is a fundamental human rights issue on which human rights activists should be afforded an equal opportunity to pronounce themselves on the subject and submit action-oriented proposals on it.

Among the difficult tasks facing the committee is the authority to study existing legislations with a view to effecting their amendment to ensure equal treatment of the sexes. We all know, however, that there are areas of existing unequal treatment between men and women, such as inheritance, which will prove impossible to address in all its dimensions. On the other hand, there are many other instances where discrimination between the sexes can be easily removed if political will is found for that purpose. Citizenship rights of children of Jordanian women, for example, can be readily corrected. Women access to passports and to free travel can likewise be attained. The right to marry and divorce can also be addressed to the extent that wives would enjoy more protection.

The issue of a special quota for women in Parliament is one that should be thought and discussed more carefully. To dictate the number of women in public life could constitute a reversed discrimination against men if it is pursued mechanically without due consideration to merits and qualifications. We all concede that women should be afforded equal opportunities in public with men. Men and women should enjoy equal access to all professions. Education should be accorded to them on an equal footing with men. But it is one thing, for example, to aim for a greater number of women in Parliament or the Cabinet and quite another to force the issue by arbitrarily measures.

Women are not only half the society, but are as important as the other half, men. Their potential needs to be fully utilised for the good of the country and its people.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IF NORMALISATION is to be achieved between the Arabs and Israel, it is inevitable to address the question of the Palestinian refugees who should be given the choice of repatriation or compensation, said a writer for Al Ra'i daily Sunday. Subhi Fahmawi referred to a recent statement by HRH Crown Prince Hassan about the rights of the refugees to return to their homeland and said that Prince Hassan is defending the Palestinian refugees' rights and making it clear that normalisation can be attained at the popular level rather than the governments' level only if justice is done and the Palestinian refugees are granted their legitimate rights. The writer said that it is unreasonable to see Jews emigrating to the Palestinian lands from Poland and other countries while the indigenous Palestinians, the legitimate owners of the land, are deprived of such a right although they have been forced out of their lands and living in the diaspora since 1948. Just and durable peace can be achieved among nations only when the refugees, along with the rest of the Palestinians, are given their rights and can live in a democracy, he added. The writer said once these conditions are met, there will exist no problem between the Israelis and the Arabs as both sides will enjoy security, stability and a durable peace.

AL DUSTOUR daily dwell on the chronic issue of recurrent deficits in the budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and urged the donor nations whose representatives are meeting in Amman Monday to raise the required funds to enable the agency to pursue its services to the Palestine refugees. It is the responsibility of the world community, in general, and the wealthy nations, in particular, to secure sufficient funds for UNRWA to help it carry out its duty towards the unfortunate refugees who have been deprived of their lands due to Israel's occupation of Palestine, stressed the daily. The agency is facing bankruptcy and its officials cry out for help to prevent any collapse of its services, noted the daily, which referred to a draft report to be submitted to the U.N. General Assembly this autumn by the agency's commissioner general who is warning the organisation that unless \$45 million are pledged to cover the expenses for the remainder of 1996, the agency would be forced to drastically reduce its health, educational and social services to the refugees. The paper stressed that the donor nations conference in Amman Monday will serve as a litmus test for the world community's credibility.

Economic Review

Crimes in the name of honour... or poverty?

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

CLEANSING ONE'S honour of shame is typically handled by shedding the blood of a loved one; the person being murdered is typically a female, the murderer is typically a male relative, and the punishment of the male is typically minimal. Most significantly, the murderer is revered and respected as a true man.

In Jordan, and in many other countries, such an act is sanctioned and viewed as a social necessity; therefore, the murderer and the crime, though ugly and beastly, are socially accepted. However, there are many observations associated with crimes of honour, which, when viewed with an eye to some economic principles, shed a light that renders the act a lazy solution to a problem.

Economists view the family as a productive unit. In this unit, labour is traditionally split between the male and the female to produce commodities that are consumed by the household. As producers, the most efficient households are the ones in which labour is specialised. In other words, as in international trade, families whose members tend to specialise, produce the most output with the least inputs. Therefore, families in which the father or mother is viewed as relatively better than the other at taking care of the household must specialise in household production instead of market production (working at a job outside the house). Families which do not specialise usually produce lower quality products: less happiness for the members, lower quality children, and less satisfying performance outside the household.

As a result, there is a sexual division of labour in families. Gary Becker, the University of Chicago Nobel laureate, wrote in his book *A Treatise on the Family*: "Although the sharp sexual division of labour in all societies between market and household sectors is partly due to the gains from specialised investments (labour investments), it is also partly due to intrinsic differences between the sexes. A man completes his biological contribution to the production of children when his sperm fertilises a woman's egg, after which she controls the reproductive process: she biologically houses and feeds the fetus, delivers the baby, and often feeds the infant with her own milk. Moreover, women have been willing to spend much time and energy caring for their children because they want their heavy bio-

logical investment in production to be worthwhile."

Women have fared worse than men in societies where the job market is underdeveloped, as they had another incentive to specialise in household activities: scarce employment opportunities. And since their labour is only required at the house, parents in underdeveloped countries, who view investment in the training of their children as a source of income for their own old age, tend to limit the training of their female children to household related activities. Therefore, in poor, developing societies, women have very little to no option: they are to await marriage.

The parents in such societies want their daughters to marry at an early age because it is one less mouth to feed. The labour of females in their parents' home when the male children are grown and gone becomes less valuable than in the early years when they could help the mother as the males were being trained to hunt, farm or manufacture.

In such societies, the female that does not marry quickly becomes a heavy burden on her parents. Initially, they invest more in her appearance to induce males to marry her. As time goes by, economic rationality dictates that they either offer higher dowries, in societies where the bride's family pays a dowry, or accept less stringent requirements in a society, like in Jordan, where the male pays a dowry to the family of the bride. Additionally, in order for the parents to increase the marketability of their daughter, and to make her a permanently attractive commodity to the male, they teach her household skills.

In more open societies, high wage earning women are more attractive to men because not only can they take care of themselves, they can also produce a surplus which is later consumed by the household.

In poor societies, the father of a female soon discovers that if a male is attracted to his daughter, this person will want to possess her at the lowest cost possible. In other words, the male would rather possess the female while she stays at her parents without him having to pay for her food, shelter and clothing. On the other hand, the father realises that the outcome of the male's conquest could be the extended stay of his daughter at his house and the possibility of her bearing a child which would mean that he would have another mouth to feed. Thus, the deadly game

of honour is started between father and lover.

The father threatens the male that if he wants his daughter, he will have to take care of her. The daughter is warned that she will be punished if she encourages acts that do not lead to marriage. The female in such societies is usually killed or thrown out of her parents' house for "permissiveness." Either punishment means that the parents have given up on her being reasonably cared for at another person's expense.

In a society with little market employment for females, this means that throwing the sinner out will lead her to lowly professions and a repeat of the act for which she was initially punished. In societies where crimes of honour are punishable as murder, throwing one's daughter out is more of a valid option and it is done only when she becomes pregnant. Sexually permissive societies usually offer employment opportunities to females so the parents do not view their daughters as a burden if they do not marry. Furthermore, in societies where crimes of honour are punished lightly, the popular option is to kill the female because the cost is reasonably low.

Killing the aberrant female is a lazy option that is motivated by selfishness, ignorance and poverty — not by love or pride. It is the option of those who want to work less, produce less and love less. A law that sanctions such an act is a law for a society where jobs are scarce and ignorance is rampant. What is known as murder done in the name of honour should not be viewed as less criminal than any other murder act. Religion gives the right of punishment to the state and has not allowed the family to commit the crime of murder. Furthermore, this act, along with vendetta, are no longer necessary practices in a lawful society.

The above is a possible explanation to the origin of a heinous act. Whether the explanation is sound or not, it does not justify the act. Most importantly, what seems to be a product of noble traditions passed from father to son is nothing but a miserly act aimed at reducing the expenditures of an impoverished household. If this explanation is correct, then such crimes should be known as crimes of ignorance, crimes of laziness, or crimes of poverty, but never crimes of honour.

The Arctic Council — a 'good' international organisation

By Gwynne Dyer

"PLEASE ACCEPT my resignation," Groucho Marx telegraphed urgently. "I don't want to belong to any club that would accept me as a member." But countries are different: they will join any club that will have them. And now there is a new one: as of this week, a select group of nations can belong to the Arctic Council.

Practically every region of the world has its own international organisation: The OAU in Africa, ASEAN in South-East Asia, the Arab League, the OSCE in Europe, the OAS in the Americas, APEC in the Asia-Pacific region. Until recently, due to the cold war, the Arctic was the great exception. But no longer.

The Arctic Council was first proposed by Canada in 1989, but even after the Soviet collapse nothing happened until everybody gave in to the U.S. demand that "security issues" be declared off limits. Ottawa persisted, however — and in 1994, it appointed an Inuit (Eskimo), Mary Simon, as Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs.

That set the tone for what followed. In the Arctic Council, formally launched in Ottawa on September 19, the native peoples of the North will not just send occasional representatives or "observers". They will be "permanent participants". That is only fair, but it is something entirely new in the diplomatic world.

The little hunting-and-gathering groups, who still live the way the whole human race did only ten or fifteen thousand years ago are dwindling everywhere. Many national governments, from Australia and India to Botswana and Brazil, have domestic policies to protect the culture of their aboriginal peoples, but nowhere are they admitted into mainstream international organisations. Until now.

In the Arctic Council, said Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, "they will be full participants. The only difference is that when it comes down to the final decision-making process, the governments have to be the ones that express their 'yes' and 'no's'."

Natives are natives, and sovereignty is sacred. It sounds like the Catch 22 to end all Catch 22s, but in fact it's not. It is very rare in this sort of organisation for any major issue to be put to a vote. If a consensus is not possible, then countries will generally back off and search for a compromise.

So to put native peoples in a position where, as "permanent participants", they can block consensus, is actually tantamount to giving them a veto. Nor do the indigenous peoples of the North suffer from the usual aboriginal handicap of being divided into dozens or hundreds of squabbling and ineffectual groups.

There are eight countries in the Arctic Council: Russia, the United States (because of Alaska), Canada, Denmark (because it administers Greenland), Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland. Apart from Iceland, which was empty of people until the first Viking settlers arrived from Europe a thousand years ago, all the members have large aboriginal populations north of the 60-degree latitude. But their northern "natives" are not divided up by borders.

The Inuit (Eskimos) of Alaska, Canada and Greenland are all represented by the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. The reindeer-herding Saami (Lapps) of Norway, Sweden, and Finland are jointly represented by the Saami Council. And in Russia, all the northern native peoples have a single organisation.

The "Association of Indigenous Minorities of the North, Siberia, and the Far East" of the "Russian Federation" was created in Soviet times to "control" the natives, but a revolution has happened. It is now run by the Yakuts, Komis, and 26 other indigenous groups — almost a million people — who live in the Russian Arctic.

The Cree of northern Quebec and the various Indian groups of the western Northwest Territories, Yukon and Alaska may also gain permanent participant status in the Arctic Council later on. But just the three groups already granted that status — the 60,000 Saami in northern Scandinavia, about 75,000 Inuit in Greenland, Canada and Alaska, and the 28 "Russian" groups — account for over two-thirds of the total indigenous population of the North.

The 1.5 million Arctic

natives may seem poor and isolated. Indeed, they are poor and isolated. But if survival is the measure of the success, they are the world's luckiest indigenous peoples. Of the 9 million people north of the 60-degree latitude, fully one-sixth are aboriginal.

In Greenland and in Canada's eastern Arctic, the Inuit are an 80-85 per cent majority of the population. Elsewhere in the Arctic, natives are up to half of the permanent population, for southerners in the North tend to be birds of passage. The Arctic is the only part of the world where the original inhabitants still dominate.

There is a major irony here, in that the ancestors of today's Inuit, Saami, Yakut and so on probably did not choose marginal hunting-and-gathering existences in the high North for their descendants. They were presumably pushed to the edges, many thousands of years ago, by tougher groups of hunter-gatherers who appropriated the better lands for themselves.

But all the better lands were taken over long ago by the patient, relentless farmers of the mass civilisations.

and the few aboriginal peoples who still survive on the fringes of those societies lead lives of misery and despair. Whereas in the North, the losers have kept their lands, their customs, and sometimes even their self-respect, precisely because they were on the poor lands.

The Arctic Council is a kind of guarantee of their future. Henceforth, it will be almost impossible for the mass societies down south to make decisions that run against the interests of northern native peoples without creating a global uproar.

This helps a lot, because the North is especially vulnerable to global pollution and climate change. Whatever is happening at the equator tends to be magnified three to five times in the polar regions, whether we are talking of the concentration of PCBs in breast milk or the average rise in noon temperatures.

The North, and especially the aboriginal peoples of the North, need leverage. The Arctic Council gives them some. It is yet another international organisation, but it is a good one.

Stop the presses! The tabloids have the scoop

By Howard Kurtz

WASHINGTON — Imagine how different politics would look these days if there were no supermarket tabloids.

Without The Star, Bill Clinton probably would have got through the 1992 campaign without having to deal with Jennifer Flowers. Whether her allegations of infidelity were true or not, they opened a window on the character problems that continue to dog President Clinton.

This summer, without The Star and the National Enquirer, the world would be unaware that the former Clinton adviser Dick Morris has led a double life (with a Virginia call girl) or triple life (with a Texas mistress and out-of-wedlock child). At the least, the photographs of a bathrobe-clad Morris romping with his \$200-an-hour hooker on a hotel balcony seem to suggest that he has a different view of family values than that envisioned in the president's campaign rhetoric.

It is customary for mainstream journalists to view denizens of the tabloid world as slimeballs. But consider the portrait the establishment press had pre-



viously painted of Mr. Morris: a brilliant if mercurial strategist whose fabulous instincts brought Mr. Clinton back from political oblivion.

Now consider the tabloid portrait: a sexually obsessed braggart so intent on impressing a prostitute that he read her his drafts of Vice President Al Gore's speeches — and so reckless he conducted the affair in the withering spotlight of a presidential campaign.

In light of Mr. Morris's subsequent behaviour — refusing to apologise for embarrassing the president,

upping the ante on his \$2 million book contract and casting about for a network commentator's job — which picture was closer to the truth?

The political press tends to deal with policy, polls and personality. Reporters do not spend much time digging for seer girlfriends or a hidden "love child," and for good reason. But the seamy side of life patrolled by the tabloids also sheds considerable light on the elusive question of "character."

To be sure, tabloid stories are often hard to verify, par-

ticularly when the sources, such as Ms. Flowers and the Morris call girl Sherry Rowlands, are paid sizeable sums for their tales of debauchery. But Mr. Morris has now acknowledged the relationship with Ms. Rowlands, and the White House has confirmed the out-of-wedlock child. Such stories have clearly transformed the media landscape.

"The Star has broken more news than the Chicago Tribune," says Evan Thomas, Newsweek's Washington bureau chief. "In the last two campaigns,

they have broken two of the biggest stories. It is embarrassing that a supermarket tabloid is breaking these big stories. On the other hand, the establishment press rightfully does not like to be first on these sorts of stories."

Steve Coz, the Enquirer's editor, says his paper now considers politicians to be "celebrities," just like movie stars. "We are actively pursuing stories about political figures," he says. "There are even plans to open a D.C. bureau."

The Star, which last week also trumpeted "Lucille Ball's Secret Baby," will never meet Columbia journalism school standards. But in a world where public figures from Wilbur Mills to Bob Packwood have led tabloid lives, the supermarket papers provide a disconcerting reminder that the personal is often political.

Meanwhile, President Clinton has been battling press inquiries into the contents of his medical records.

Reluctance to release those records is clearly a legitimate issue. But should reporters be asking the White House about rumours of what they contain? That is what happened last week when the press corps was quizzing the White House spokesman Mike McCurry on what might lurk in the withheld

Clinton records. When Mr. McCurry said the details might be embarrassing, Mara Liasson of National Public Radio asked: "Does he have a sexually transmitted disease?" Other reporters quickly jumped in.

"Good God, do you really want to raise that question?" asked Mr. McCurry, who denied that Mr. Clinton had any such disease. But it was enough to warrant mentions in The Washington Post, The New York Times, the Washington Times and USA Today, on ABC and CNN, and in a New York Post headline: "White House denies prez has sexual disease."

All this sounds like an old technique: Ask a public figure about some charge you cannot prove, get him to deny it and report the denial. "Jones insists he never beat wife."

But Ms. Liasson says Mr. McCurry opened the door by refusing to be specific. "In that context, asking the question I did was not inappropriate," she says. "If I had given it any thought before I asked the question, I probably would not have asked it. But it was the question hanging in the room. I felt like there was a balloon above all our heads: 'What does he mean by embarrassing?'"

The Washington Post

Queen, U.S. team discuss plans for regional cancer centre for children

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday met with a delegation from the U.S.-based St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the President of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Khatib, to discuss plans for the establishment of a regional children's cancer centre at the Amal Cancer Centre (ACC).

The delegation is slated to visit the King Hussein Medical Centre, the University of Jordan Hospital and the Ministry of Health, and will hold a meeting at the ACC on regional cooperation, attended by doctors from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, a statement issued by the Royal Court said.

The delegation is studying the needs of the regional centre and interviewing children's cancer specialists to work there. Those who

are ultimately appointed will be receive up to four years of additional training in the United States.

The statement continued that St. Jude Hospital will help establish a medical advisory board for the centre and provide medical consultation, expertise and advice as well as administrative support.

St. Jude Children's Hospital was founded by a Lebanese-American actor called Danny Thomas in 1955, who named the hospital after St. Jude Thaddeus, the patron saint of hopeless cases. It is the most eminent American childhood cancer research centre as well as the 3rd largest health charity in the United States. St. Jude is open to all children who meet the medical requirements, regardless of the child's nationality, religion, or financial status. It has more than 4,800 patients on its current rolls (5-10

per cent of whom are from outside the U.S.) and has treated children from Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran. In order to fund the hospital's operating and maintenance costs, Mr. Thomas established the American Lebanese Syrian Association Charities (ALSAC) in 1957. Currently 70 per cent of St. Jude's revenue comes from ALSAC through public contributions, the statement said.

ALSAC subsequently formed the International Development Department which works in conjunction with other health care institutions around the world to help St. Jude set up outreach programmes in other countries.

According to Vice President of International Development Dr. Michael Saba, the hospital "has extensive Hospital Outreach Programmes to many coun-

tries, which include training hospital personnel, bringing international health personnel to the United States, sending our hospital personnel [abroad] and doing joint health care diagnostic work."

The Department's role is to assist their outreach partner-institution in obtaining financial and administrative self-sufficiency in their operations, the statement continued.

Currently, St. Jude has outreach programmes in Brazil, El Salvador, Chile, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Russia, Mexico, Italy and Venezuela.

Director of the ALSAC Outreach Programmes Dr. Michael Saba, Director of the Hospital Outreach Programme Dr. William Crist and Dr. Gaston Rivera of St. Jude's Department of Hematology/Oncology attended the meeting with the Queen.



YOM KIPPUR: A Palestinian youngster who works in a shop in the ultra-orthodox Jewish neighbourhood of Mea Shearim of Jerusalem twirls a white rooster over the head of an ultra-orthodox Jewish man who recites the 'kaporot' prayer on Sunday prior to the start of Yom Kippur (Reuters photo)

Dead and emigres voted in Mount Lebanon — loser

BEIRUT (R) — Pro-government candidates in Lebanon's general elections received the votes of emigres and the dead, a prominent loser alleged in a court appeal.

Albert Moukheiber, a former deputy and fierce government critic, asked the Constitutional Council to overturn the result of the Aug. 18 vote in mainly-Christian Mount Lebanon and declare him the winner.

Another six losers have lodged similar appeals, alleging vote-rigging and abuse by pro-government candidates who crushed the opposition in all five rounds of voting. They include Christian nationalists like Mr. Moukheiber who oppose Syrian influence in Lebanon.

Mr. Moukheiber said in his 44-page appeal published by newspapers on the weekend that vote monitors in the Mem district in Mount Lebanon found fraud.

"It was not free of the voting of the dead and those absent and voters who discovered that someone had voted in their name," said

Mr. Moukheiber, 82, who headed a seven-man list of opposition candidates. All but one lost.

Mr. Moukheiber, who lost to Raji Abu Haidar, a candidate on a list headed by Interior Minister Michel Murr, said some 5,000 newly-naturalised Lebanese were pressured by Murr candidate supporters to vote for the minister and his allies.

"The naturalised in Mem became afraid they may lose the Lebanese identity cards if the official circles were not satisfied they voted for Minister Murr's ticket," he charged.

He also said interior ministry security forces arrested some supporters of his "People's List" hours before the Mount Lebanon vote began.

The arrests "took place in circumstances that can only be explained within the context of pressure and scaring voters, especially supporters of the 'People's List'," he added.

The Lebanese Association for Democracy of Elections, an independent monitoring group, has reported widespread abuses in the poll.

Autopsy shows driver was stabbed to death in Iraq

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An autopsy performed Sunday on a Jordanian national who was brutally murdered in Iraqi last week revealed he died of 15 stab wounds to the neck, an official source said.

The source added that the body of Salem Mohammad Sayed, 35, was mutilated and his ears were cut off.

"The victim was stabbed with a bayonet with injuries concentrated on the neck," the source said.

Police Chief Lieutenant General Nasouh Mehdiddin on Saturday issued instructions for the National Institute of Forensics to reperform autopsies on any Jordanian citizen whose death occurs in Iraq.

An initial autopsy is performed in Iraq. The police chief said that final investigations into the Sayed case were expected to be conveyed to Jordanian authorities from their Iraqi counterparts in the next few days.

Mr. Sayed, a truck driver,

was hauling a cargo to Baghdad when his vehicle was hijacked.

Official sources have said the unknown assailants killed Mr. Sayed, cut off his ears and abandoned the corpse in the desert.

Mr. Sayed became the fourth truck driver to be killed on Iraqi soil in the past six months.

In mid-March, three Jordanians in their mid-20s were murdered in Iraq when they were attacked by seven Iraqis who hijacked their truck, killed them and buried them in the desert with their truck.

The seven were apprehended by Iraqi authorities a week later, official Iraqi newspapers have reported.

Meanwhile, police were investigating the death of a man found with a bullet in his head in Hashmi Shamali district, an official source said.

The source would not identify the man, but said that he received a single bullet to his forehead.

Police said they were investigating.

2-year forecast for home PCs — some new trends and variations appear

By Evan Ramstad
The Associate Press

NEW YORK — Paced by advances in chip design, personal computer makers are offering faster machines and lowering the prices of existing models about every six months.

But several new trends will also appear in the next couple of years, including some that will make the public broaden its perception of computing.

PCs themselves will do more things. Already, Gateway 2000 sells a \$4,000 system with a 77.5-centimetre monitor that can also serve as a television. And Acer includes a phone with its newest models while IBM has controls built into its home PCs for lights and other appliances.

Meanwhile, variations of the all-purpose PC, including devices that just do one or two things like browsing the World Wide Web or ordering a pizza, will become more common.

"The computer as we know it will not go away but there will be an entire new generation of computer machines dedicated to specific things," said Robin Raskin, editor-in-chief of Family PC magazine.

"They're going to take all different shapes and they'll cost a lot less because they'll do one thing well."

For PC makers, developing new kinds of machines is important to maintain growth and market share — particularly since sales growth

Of traditional PCs has been faster overseas than in the United States, a trend expected to continue as the U.S. market reaches saturation.

A look at what consumers can expect in PCs over the next two years: the inside

stuff, the rhythm of the computer industry is provided by engineers who keep figuring out how to design and manufacture chips that contain twice as many circuits as the ones they produced two years earlier.

This phenomenon has gone on since the first chip that could be mass-produced was created in 1959. Of course, the process becomes more wondrous each time it happens because the starting point is much higher.

From 1996 to 1998, the most, popularly-priced, PC, ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000, will move from a main chip with about 3 million circuits to one with about 6 million.

Two years ago, the chips that powered PCs costing \$1,000 to \$2,000 were from the last generations of the Intel 486 family and, in Apple Macintosh, the Motorola 68000-series. Their fastest speed was 66 megahertz (MHz). Today's PCs are run by Intel's Pentium chips at 133 MHz, while Macintosh machines have powerpc chips that run at 120 MHz. More expensive models have Intel chips that run at 200 MHz and Powerpc chips at 225 MHz.

In 1998, the typical PC considered by a consumer will have a new generation Pentium Pro or Powerpc chips running around 300 MHz, with the most expensive models run by chips at about 450 MHz.

During the past two years, the price and efficiency of PC hard drives and CD-Rom drives advanced at an even faster pace than micro-processors.

By 1998, hard drives will typically hold 3 to 4 gigabytes of data, up from 1 to 2 gigabytes now. And CD-Rom drives will have been

replaced by digital video disk drives (DVDs), which will run today's CDs and also the new similar-looking DVD that can hold seven to 14 times as much data, enough for a full-length movie or all of Beethoven's nine symphonies.

But modem speeds, which have advanced from 9,600 bits per second (bps) two years ago to 28,800 now, will not experience the same kind of jump by 1998, simply because of the physical limits of telephone lines. Modems are now coming out at 33,600 bps and engineers will work on smaller gains. Companies are also working on software techniques to squeeze more data through an existing phone line.

In software many innovations in software are being driven by the Internet as people try to integrate the data they work with on their PC with the broader public network. New game programmes, for instance, will allow users to play opponents through the Internet.

Microsoft Corp.'s Windows and Apple's Macintosh operating systems are being improved to bridge the gap between data inside and outside the PC — eliminating, for example, the distinction a user finds between working with a word processor and a web browser.

Apple has recently demonstrated significant advances in manipulating data inside a machine and some of that work will be available to consumers by 1998.

The appearance of Apple's main operating programme, which was the first to use symbols and point-and-click commands, will also change to reflect the new capabilities.

New designs PCs now come in colours like black,

dark green and dark purple instead of just beige. By 1998, some models may be trimmed in wood and laptops will have handles molded into the cases to make the machines more portable.

Handheld computers such as U.S. Robotics' Palm Pilot and Apple's

Newton will also be reshaped and take on new functions.

"There is the need here for not only changes in styling but changes in the way that functions are packaged," said Jose Garcia, vice president and general manager of Consumer Desktop Systems at IBM.

His company in a few weeks will unveil a PC in which the disk and CD-Rom drives are in a unit at desktop level while the guts of the machine are stored elsewhere.

Flat panels although unlikely to make a difference to consumers by 1998, a growing trend in computer sales to businesses is the replacement of bulky computer monitors with sleek flat-panel screens, similar to those in laptops. They use less energy and require less cooling.

The new york stock exchange has replaced the monitors that hang above trading specialists with flat panels. Compaq uses a flat-panel display on a new PC shaped like a boom box stereo. And some Japanese companies will have flat-panel TVs, although built with different technology, out late this year or in early 1997.

They will priced around \$5,000.

Human rights groups raise concern over Tunisia situation

By Maria Bizri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Six major human rights organisations have sent an open letter to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali expressing concern about what they described as the deterioration in the situation of human rights and public liberties in Tunisia.

The six organisations are: Amnesty International, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), the Human Rights Watch, the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights and Reporters Sans Frontieres.

The organisations denounced the "repressive and arbitrary" practices against human rights defenders which, according to them, have become "increasingly obvious and widespread."

The organisations stated that they had repeatedly brought their concern about numerous cases of torture, deaths under torture, and other serious violations to the attention of the Tunisian government. The organisations maintained that "the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of these acts can only encourage further violations."

The letter, a copy of which was faxed to the Jordan

Times, also listed recent cases where the organisations said the victims of violations have been international human rights organisations themselves.

Among the cases mentioned was that of a Tunisian member of staff of Amnesty International headquarters who was arrested last month upon his arrival in Tunisia, held in secret detention for a week in the national security building within the Ministry of Interior, and interrogated about his work for Amnesty International.

Another case was of a delegate of Reporters Sans Frontieres who was expelled from Tunisia in March 1994, after which Reporters Sans Frontieres have been "denied access to the country."

The organisations stated that their objective is to contribute to the protection and defence of human rights in Tunisia, as elsewhere, and that they remain determined to support defenders of human rights and public liberties.

The organisations urged the Tunisian government to give due consideration to the concerns raised in their letter, and to ensure that necessary measures are taken to put an end to such violations.

U.S. signals easing of tension with Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

Stealth fighters to Kuwait, a squadron of F-16s to Bahrain, and beefed up its forces in Kuwait in addition to the extra aircraft carrier.

But the crisis also has exacted a political price from Washington, exposing fissures in the U.S.-led alliance that fought against Baghdad in the 1991 Gulf war.

Mr. Perry said all was quiet in Iraq and there had been no new threats to allied pilots enforcing the expanded "no-fly" zone in the south.

"But we are watching very carefully, every hour," he said.

The White House, State Department and Pentagon have all said in recent statements that the situa-

tion in Iraq appeared to be calming down.

The United States has sent two written warnings to President Saddam warning him to not rebuild air defences destroyed by cruise missiles in the south, and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director John Deutch told Congress last week that Iraq was moving its anti-aircraft units back to garrison.

But Mr. Deutch also told Congress, despite claims by the Clinton administration that its Iraqi military policy was successful, that the Iraqi leader — whose forces were badly beaten by a U.S.-led military coalition in the 1991 Gulf war — was now stronger politically based on his recent incursion into the north.

Saddam hails retaking control of north Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

with the Security Council, mainly on technical matters related to implementing its resolutions. Egypt being a Security Council member" until January.

He said the Egyptian officials had been "understanding, sympathetic and supportive of Iraq's position" and that Egyptian-Iraqi relations were on "the right track."

Syria reiterates movements

(Continued from page 1)

Asked his assessment of the probability of war, he said:

"In my opinion the probability of war in the short-term is not high. In the long-term, events, deteriorations, external or internal situations can have an influence, always a possibility like that exists and therefore we train ... and do all the operations demanded."

Israel's Jerusalem Post newspaper quoted the commander of the U.N. Disengagement Observer Force on the Golan (UNDOF) as saying there had been no unusual activity in his area.

"On the Golan areas as such, there is no buildup of troops, no buildup of tension," Major General Johannes Koster said.

Mr. Mordechai suggested three explanations for the Syrian troop movements.

The first was as a defensive action ahead of feared

Israeli retaliatory strikes against bases of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah militia in the Bekaa Valley, a Syrian stronghold.

The other hypothesis was that the movements were designed to pressure Israel back to the negotiating table or were in preparation for a possible limited military strike against Israeli positions on the heights.

In a subsequent interview Sunday morning on Israel Radio, Mr. Mordechai played down the danger of the last option "in the short term." "Syria understands that we have no aggressive intentions," he said.

Nevertheless, according to the Haaretz newspaper, Mr. Mordechai and Mr. Netanyahu had decided to reinforce Israeli positions on the Golan Heights.

Discussions were continuing over what form the redeployment should take, the newspaper said.

Badia deputy submits resignation

(Continued from page 12)

He said he invited several ministers to visit his district, meet with residents and hear their demands in order to implement what is possible, but they all failed to answer his invitation.

According to the deputy, Minister of Education Munther Masri was the only Cabinet member to respond to his letters and queries.

He maintained that the resignation was not a way of escape from responsibilities, adding that he believes that he can work from outside Parliament, whose members he accused of sectarianism and factionalism.

"The House has become a toy in the hands of the executive authority which is itself split into groups

with diverse principles and views, but which is united only by the instinct of blackmailing the country and dominating the people's potentials," he asserted.

Dr. Qadi, who, along with the 22 opposition deputies, boycotted House sessions to protest lifting the subsidies, accused the government of trying to settle accounts with him since he was the first bedouin deputy ever to oppose government decisions and said if he supported the government, his demands would have been met.

He told the press conference that the decision to resign was irreversible regardless of all pressures, adding that it was now up to the House to decide on the resignation, but if the House refuses it

he can abstain from three sessions to have the resignation constitutionally valid.

Speaker Srour said the House will decide on the resignation as soon as it convenes, expressing his belief that every deputy has the right to submit his resignation whenever he/she deems fit, although constitutionally a deputy can only resign when the House is in session.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Srour said he does not believe that a deputy who undertook it to defend the people and help resolve their problems can help his country by resigning.

Strong world economy leaves IMF, World Bank uneasy

WASHINGTON (R) — In old Western movies, there was often a scene where one cowboy turned to another and said, "it's quiet out there. Too quiet." just before the Indians swept over the hill.

That is the way the world economy feels to some policymakers as they prepare for the start of the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in Washington later this week.

Inflation in industrial countries is low. Economic growth seems to be picking up throughout much of the world. Currency markets are stable, and speculators have turned more sober.

Even if the U.S. Federal Reserve raises interest rates a notch on Tuesday, as some analysts expect, the outlook for the world economy next year still looks good, IMF officials said.

"This is the point in time that we dig out the old adage — complacency must be avoided," Stanley Fischer, first deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said.

He told reporters that something inevitably would go wrong. The problem is that nobody knows what it will be.

Mr. Fischer singled out Europe as one potential trouble spot as it struggles to launch European monetary union in 1999 against a backdrop of slow growth and sky-high unemployment.

"If there would be difficulties, they could be associated with the possibility that the (faster) growth we see for Europe does not happen," the senior IMF official said.

Princeton University Professor Peter Kenen said Europe's inability to deal with the unemployment problem raised concern about the continent's long-term political stability.

"I have been amazed that their political systems have been thus far reasonably invulnerable to violent political reaction to high unemployment," he said.

Another possible trouble spot cited by some analysts is East Asia, where countries such as Thailand and Malaysia are beginning to show signs of strain from the rapid economic growth

they have enjoyed in recent years.

Those strains are mainly showing up in the form of huge and potentially unfinanceable trade deficits — the same sort of problem that Mexico confronted just before its currency crisis in late 1994. "There are reasons to be somewhat concerned about overheating in parts of Asia," said Charles Dallara, managing director of the Institute of International Finance, which represents about 220 banks and global investors.

But in many ways Asia's problems pale against those that faced Mexico two years ago before it tumbled into recession. Mr. Fischer said growth in East Asian nations was expected to slow in 1997, but to levels — seven, eight, nine per cent — that would still be regarded as a "gallop" elsewhere in the world.

With the world economy seemingly on course for a good year and financial markets looking stable, policy-makers will turn their attention to less earth-shattering but nevertheless important issues relating to the IMF and World Bank.

Among those up for discussion: a multi-billion-dollar proposal to provide multilateral debt relief to the world's poorest nations. The IMF pledged last week to find the money to participate, and the World Bank is already on board.

But if the programme is to work, industrial nations will need to expand the debt relief they already provide to poor nations. And money will also need to be found so that the African Development Bank can take part.

Policy-makers are also likely to spend time putting the finishing touches on a series of initiatives taken after Mexico's 1994-95 crisis, including beefing up the IMF's emergency resources for handling such problems.

"I don't think it will be a thunder-and-lightning meeting," one International Monetary Official said. "But when the markets are so stable and the winds are blowing so gently, one really has to wonder what is going to upset it."



A SEMINAR on export credits insurance organised by the Jeddah-based Islamic Foundation for Insuring Investments and Export Credits in cooperation with the Jordanian Islamic Bank (JIB) was held Sunday at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

JIB General Manager Musa Shihadeh (third from right) commended the role of the foundation in providing credits for investors and exporters. The foundation, which is one of the Jeddah-based Islamic Bank For Development Group, aims at improving the living standard of the people in Arab as well as Islamic countries.

Mr. Shihadeh explained the services of insurance and reinsurance which the foundation provides to both exporters and investors.

The seminar was addressed by Abdul Rahman Taha (left), the general manager of the foundation, and Walid Khairallah (second from right), the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (Petra photo)

EU returns to grain subsidies

PARIS (R) — The European Union (EU) has reverted to granting subsidies to its grain exporters for the first time in more than a year.

Subsidies had been suspended and the EU even imposed a prohibitive export tax for a while when the global market tightened and grain stocks fell to 20-year lows.

But several regions including the EU this year reported bumper harvests.

A decision to return to subsidies was made during the weekly EU grain auction, to dispose of the larger-than-expected crop.

The EU may have a record grain harvest of up to 200 million tonnes this year, up more than 10 per cent from 1995. Bigger crops have also been reported in Australia and China.

Wheat prices peaked near \$300 per tonne in April, before sliding to the present \$160 as the bigger harvests rolled in.

EU ministers put single currency on solid course

DUBLIN (R) — European Union (EU) finance ministers and central bank governors laid the foundations Saturday for three critical areas of monetary union, taking a giant leap towards the realisation of a common currency.

"We are well on the way to a single currency," French Finance Minister Jean Arthuis told reporters.

The ministers, meeting in a Dublin castle, reached broad agreement on setting up a budget stability pact to punish countries joining economic and monetary union (EMU) in 1999 if they pursued lax budget policies.

There was also consensus on the outline for a new exchange rate mechanism (ERM) which would link a new "euro" currency to those

not participating in EMU.

In addition they agreed to clarify the legal basis for the euro as quickly as possible to instill confidence among businesses and financial markets.

"We have made substantial progress on the three areas set before us," Irish Finance Minister Ruairi Quinn told a news conference, predicting that any outstanding issues would be resolved by the end of the year.

Other ministers echoed his remarks after the talks intended to iron out the technical details of the EMU blueprint.

Britain's chancellor of the exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, told Reuters that details of the stability pact had been sent back to the EU commission for further study. "We have made a lot of progress but

have referred it back to do more work," he said.

Issues still to be resolved include how much countries would be fined for running annual deficits above three per cent of gross domestic product and how long a government would have to put its finances back-in order before incurring a penalty.

Germany, the catalyst behind the pact, has argued for six to seven months, a period considered by many to be too short for a government to adopt a credible new budget plan. EU officials said a consensus of around nine months appeared to be emerging.

One final challenge is a better definition of the "exceptional" economic circumstances which would lead to a

deterioration in a government's finances. In such cases a delinquent government would essentially be let off the hook.

The stability pact is cent-

(Continued on page 9)

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"My male encounter group gets together every week to share our feelings. Mostly we feel like playing poker."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argentin

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CUNEO
YONOL
WARTOD
FARGOE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: AN

Yesterday's Jumbles: LITHE INLET BLUISH SOLACE
Answer: Some carpenters try to do this at tax time — CHISEL A LITTLE

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by Alan Olschwang

ACROSS

- History
- A Cass
- Dynasty of French kings
- Minstrel singer's instrument
- Wing-shaped
- Establish as fact
- Mountains, Russia
- Football player
- Complex of shops
- Veranda
- Coop dwellers
- Carefree
- Strongly disinclined
- Chambered cephalopods
- Photographer's request
- Certain group
- Chatter
- Relaxation
- Sharp in taste
- NV city
- Equip
- Utter impulsively
- Musical direction
- Inhibiting
- Lead ore
- Met offerings
- Author Waugh
- Gambol
- Rajah's wife
- Creative writing
- Jacket or collar
- Residence
- Assns.
- Protuberance
- Trigonometric functions
- Aerie
- One of the Barrymores

DOWN

- Determine the depth
- Otic
- Authoritarian dogma
- Snitcher
- Croquet device
- Inter —
- Educator
- Horace
- Code or way start
- Tax man, maybe
- Curved gateways
- Card game
- Ties
- Right to the point
- Prejudiced
- Color
- Dog's doc
- Bring upon oneself
- Acting Peter
- College credits
- Red or Black
- Spoil the finish
- Car need
- Insect
- Scare word
- Llama's cousin
- Church title
- Hogan or Franklin
- Cuo arina
- Ebb
- Most angry
- Big bashes
- Court plea
- Admit.
- Battery terminal
- Muscle attachment
- Like — of bricks
- Unadulterated
- Units of work
- Legal matter

Peanuts

LINUS, I'VE BEEN FEELING SORT OF LONELY TONIGHT..

COULD YOU AND I SIT HERE IN YOUR PORCH SWING FOR A WHILE AND TALK?

WE DON'T HAVE A PORCH SWING..

SHUT THE DOOR! YOU'RE LETTING ALL THE BUGS IN!

WELL, THANKS ANYWAY..

I THINK I'LL STAND HERE AND LET BUGS IN..

Andy Capp

GOOD-BYE!!

YOU'RE JUST NOT THINKING STRAIGHT

HE'S RIGHT, Y'KNOW, I'M PAID UP ON THE RENT TILL NEXT MONTH. WHY SHOULD HE GET ALL THE BENEFIT?

Mutt'n'Jeff

MUTT, THIS IS YOUR BALL. THAT ONE'S MINE!

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't try to rush through any business affairs today or you could make drastic errors. Give more attention later this evening to your mate and you will discover that he or she will show more affection to you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) If you are forceful today with a fellow associate you will get nowhere. A late start in business works well out later this evening so you can accomplish a great deal and become quite successful in the days ahead.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your creative ideas are late in coming today so you should wait until a more opportune moment. Get entertainments for the days ahead arranged nicely at this time and you can meet with close friends for some fun.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You want to take a chance of some sort today and it may turn out to your liking if done early this morning. Later this evening will be good if you consult with those in authority for some ideas on completion of career activities.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Exercise patience at home today with your loved ones and you will be able to invite guests in tonight. Treat them harmfully and you can get the results which you can expect in the days ahead with your career activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take care in motion during the day-time today — especially while on the highways to avoid obstacles or accidents. You can easily take short trips later this evening and get fine results with close friends and fellow associates.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Financial affairs are first on the agenda today so set aside your calendar of career activities and make the effort to have extra funds for a later time. Be careful before signing up for any long-term commitments.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You awake today with a desire to do something of a very personal nature, however, think it over first or you could make some serious error. Later this evening you can consult with knowledgeable people over a new project.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Forget that concern this morning, otherwise you will ruin your day and you be concerned over something you can do nothing about at this time. Ignore a mate's irritability or you could find yourself in much difficulty.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Try to help a friend today who is in a dilemma and later this evening enjoy the company of other good friends. You can meet with fellow associates and discuss your methods of operation for a new task.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't get bogged down today by outside tasks which are a bore. Be alert to opportunities later this evening from bigwigs who have the capability to make your career activities more successful in the days ahead.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study some new activities you have in mind today before you put them in operation so you can avoid any miscalculations. A newcomer can be of great assistance so by all means seek his or her advice.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli.



Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (right) of Spain shows off her trophy with winner Monica Seles of the United States after losing the final of the Nichirei international women's tennis tournament in Tokyo September 22 (Reuters photo)

Seles beats Sanchez to win Tokyo title

TOKYO (AFP) — With a typhoon raging around her, Monica Seles beat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-1, 6-4 in a whirlwind 81 minutes Sunday to take the Tokyo International women's title for a third time.

Seles, the joint world number one, who could not defend her title after being stabbed in 1993, said: "It's great to come back after such a long time and do well again, but definitely the conditions were really tough."

Strong winds and rain caused by typhoon violet forced organizers to close the stadium roof, but drops that fell through still delayed the start for more than an hour and interrupted play several times.

Seles remained calm and used her double-banded strokes to force her Spanish opponent to rush around the court in the first set, though she had to save four break points.

Sanchez never gave up though. Using effective drop shots, lobs and passing shots to pile up points, she came back from one break down to 3-3 thanks to a Seles double fault at 30-40 in the sixth game.

But the Spaniard started to make unforced errors and Seles went on to take the title she had won in 1991 and 1992 with a backhand winner down the line.

"By the middle of the second set to the end of the second, I definitely forgot about the rain," said Seles. "The key game was I held my serve at 4-3 for Arantxa to go four-all. That was a really important game."

It was another frustrating day for the Spaniard who has been runner-up seven times this year, including the French Open, Wimbledon and the Atlanta Olympics.

It was Seles' 38th career title and fifth this year, after victories at Sydney, the Australian Open in Melbourne, Eastbourne and Canadian Open. She has now beaten Sanchez 12 times and lost only once, in the 1992 Canadian Open final.

The 1995 singles champion Mary Pierce of France teamed up with Amanda Coetzer of South Africa to take the doubles title. They defeated Park Sung-Hee of South Korea and Wang Shi-Ting of Taiwan 6-1, 7-6 (7/5) in the final.

Porto lead Portuguese League

LISBON (R) — Porto maintained their lead in the Portuguese first division soccer championship on Saturday when they beat Salgueiros 1-0 away.

Porto and Sporting both have 10 points, with Porto ahead on goal difference. Benfica, Braga and Farense have seven points with a match in hand after three matches. Guimaraes have seven points after four matches.

Salgueiros put up a spirited defence against Porto, who had only one chance to score in the first half when a long shot by midfielder Sergio Conceicao hit the bar in the 16th minute.

Brazilian striker Mario Jardel, twice-scoring hero in Porto's recent 3-2 first round win against AC Milan in the European Champions' League, shot the ball into the net in the 63rd minute after a header by compatriot Luis Marcos (Lula) hit the bar.

He dedicated his winning goal to his newly born son. He heard the news of the birth last Wednesday when Porto crushed Benfica to win the Portuguese Supercup 5-0.

Guimaraes, who will face Parma of Italy in a first leg second round UEFA Cup match at home on Tuesday, drew 0-0 away against Chaves.

Lisbon Sporting beat Maritimo 3-0 at home on Friday with an own goal by Felipe Ramos as well as goals by Sa Pinto and Afonso Martins.

Benfica meet bottom-of-the-table Uniao Leiria on Sunday.

Sisters suing Sydney Games organisers over boomerang logo

SYDNEY (AFP) — The Sydney 2000 Olympics logo featuring boomerangs in the shape of a running athlete has become the focus of a legal action by four sisters who insist it was based on their design.

Just eight days after the design was unveiled here, the sisters, who run a graphic design studio known as Leuver, Leuver and Leuver, said Sunday that unless their claim is settled soon they will launch proceedings for a six-figure settlement.

They say the official logo, developed by Fha Image design of Melbourne, bears such a close resemblance to the one they submitted first in 1991 and again 18 months ago that it could not have been coincidental.

Featuring a stylised image of the Sydney Opera House above three boomerangs symbolising an athlete, the official logo has already drawn its share of controversy.

A three-dimensional model of the

logo, which has also been likened to a rooster crowing, was blown down by a gust of wind, photographed by a passing photographer and revealed on the front pages of newspapers two days before its official unveiling.

The creative director Trevor Flett said the majority of the designs submitted featured images of the opera house or boomerangs in some form and that the Leuver sisters' design was one of them.

The sisters, Maria, Vanessa, Therese and Jonie, said they had attended an unsatisfactory meeting with SOCOG officials on Friday and are now in process of sending a letter.

"It's for six figures, but I can't be more specific," said Maria. "If this is not resolved satisfactorily within the next few days then we will be starting proceedings."

"The official logo is really close to the design we submitted to organ-

isers of Sydney's bid for the Games and then we resubmitted the idea in 1995. We also thought it was a very good idea, which is why we presented it twice."

"I know what SOCOG has said about boomerangs, but the big question is about boomerangs and men, which was an original concept."

SOCOG spokesman Richard Palfreyman said Friday's meeting with the Leuver sisters had been arranged at SOCOG's invitation.

"It was to try to establish the exact nature of their questions because they have so far only been made through the press."

"SOCOG and Trevor Flett reaffirmed their previous statements that the Sydney 2000 logo is an original work created by Fha and is owned by SOCOG."

"Many of the other submissions we received featured boomerangs and the opera house."

Gascoigne sparks Rangers fightback

GLASGOW (AFP) — Two goals apiece from Paul Gascoigne and substitute Peter Van Vossen saw Rangers come from behind to clinch a 4-1 triumph at Kilmarnock to make it six league wins out of six for the Glasgow Giants.

England star Gascoigne netted twice in a second-half fight-back by Walter Smith's champions to maintain their two-point lead over Celtic at the top and keep them on course for a record-equalling nine straight titles.

And Dutchman Van Vossen netted a late double to take his season's tally to nine and put an unfair gloss on the scoreline in a match which Rangers threatened to lose for long periods.

Killie had gone in front through Mark Reilly's 19th-minute goal to leave boss Alex Totten dreaming of his first ever victory over Rangers as a manager.

Rangers face French side Auxerre on Wednesday in a vital Champions' League tie when they will try to bounce back from a 3-0 defeat at Grasshoppers Zurich 10 days ago.

Auxerre manager Guy Roux, who was at the match to spy on his Scottish rivals, singled out two players who he believes pose a threat.

Celtic received a boost ahead of next week's UEFA Cup trip to Hamburg where they must overturn a 2-0 deficit.

The Glasgow Giants warmed up by demolishing Dunfermline 5-1, with Italian summer signing Paolo di Canio among the scorers, but manager Tommy Burns was not overjoyed at the Celtic display.

Goals from Darren Jackson and Keith Wright gave Hibernian a well-deserved 2-0 win at Aberdeen who crashed to their first Premier Division defeat of the season.

An impressive all-round display from hibs, well-matched by 40-year-old former England captain Ray Wilkins, relieved some of the pressure on manager Alex Miller who has come in for some heavy criticism following last week's four goal League Cup defeat to Rangers.

In the day's other Premier Division matches Raith Rovers twice came from behind to beat Dundee United 3-2 in a thrilling clash, giving the 1994 League Cup winners their first points of the season, while Hearts drew 1-1 at home to Motherwell.

Paolo Rossi wants goals for his birthday

VICENZA, ITALY (AFP) — Paolo Rossi, Italy's hero of their 1982 World Cup triumph, is celebrating his 40th birthday here Monday with a plea for more excitement in a sport he no longer enjoys.

Rossi, whose six goals at the 1982 finals in Spain guided Italy to victory, retired at the age of 31. A property developer who now lives in Vicenza, he enjoys horse riding and scuba diving.

Football is a sore point. Though the former Juventus star still watches his local Serie A club Vicenza, he clearly believes the Italian championship has lost its way.

"I hardly enjoy it at all," he told the Gazzetta Dello Sport on Sunday. "It's the football of constant harrying, of tactics, of teams playing a short game within a 20-metre area."

"And the players with a touch of fantasy are being sacrificed."

"The World Cup two years ago was a disappointment and the recent European Championships were a bore: 10 matches decided by penalties."

There's no room for goals anymore.

"Something has to change, like the off-side rules. They shouldn't be completely abolished, but at least be limited to the penalty area."

Rossi was no kinder to Italy's unpopular national coach Arrigo Sacchi.

"I don't like his way of playing," Rossi said. "I'm not doubting the fact that he's a solid coach, it's just that I can't remember a single great game played by his team."

He then corrected himself, saying: "They did well at the World Cup, and came second, but what we saw was not beautiful football."

And at Euro 96, we could have done a great deal more.

"I think most people would agree with what I say: We no longer love the national team because it no longer has an identity. Sacchi makes too many changes, systems are the only things that count for him."

"He's taken all the personality out of the team."

Rossi still dons his boots occasionally. The man whose hat-trick 14 years ago toppled Brazil and whose goal broke the deadlock with West Germany in the final, now plays celebrity matches for club Italia.

Simone hits out at Capello, eyes Chelsea

MILAN (AFP) — AC Milan's top striker Marco Simone has made a withering attack on his former coach Fabio Capello and said he will move to Chelsea if things do not improve.

Capello guided Milan to four league titles and one European Cup in his five seasons in charge, but left the Italian champions in the summer.

Simone never convinced Capello of his abilities, despite scoring some vital goals in Europe and 17 in the 1994-95 league season.

If the 27-year-old were given his time again, Simone said: "I'd choose Milan again, but knowing what has happened in the last five with Capello, I'd have asked to leave, so that I'd get a chance to play."

The biggest blow came last season, he said. "I know that nobody is owed anything, but it's only fair to give players who have done well a chance. But it seems it was decided I shouldn't play. Capello drew up his starting grid and I was at the back."

"Capello was not straight with me. I never had the impression I had the same chances as the others. Capello lacked tact, respect and education."

Asked if Simone himself had made any mistakes with the coach, the striker replied: "One, having put up with him. The relationship with Capello even found its way into the

question of belief in God.

"I talk about it with friends but I always come up against the same thought: 'there are too many people who suffer.' To look at the world, God does not seem as good as people say. He has not given everyone the same opportunities. God is a bit like Capello."

Simone has blossomed under new coach Oscar Tabarez, scoring both goals in their Italian Cup win over Empoli, two in a 4-1 league win over Verona and one in the 3-2 defeat to FC Porto in the Champions League.

But he has not forgotten an offer made to him by former AC Milan hero Ruud Gullit, now coach of Chelsea.

The Dutchman has already asked Simone to join the London club as their third Italian with Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Di Matteo. Simone told the Gazzetta Dello Sport's weekend magazine.

"I spoke with Ruud during the summer and he told me 'for you, the door is always open.' But he also realised that what I want most is to achieve something with Milan."

"Given that Capello was leaving, I preferred to stay and finally play my hand. It would be stupid to leave now."

But asked what he would do if doors closed again here, Simone had no doubts about the answer: "Gullit has left the door open for me at Chelsea..."

Romario scores on recall to Valencia line-up

MADRID (R) — Troubled striker Romario scored on his recall to the Valencia line-up on Saturday and celebrated by rushing to shake hands with Luis Aragones, the coach who had dropped him.

Romario helped Valencia to a 2-1 win over Tenerife, while champions Atletico Madrid also returned to winning ways after consecutive defeats by brushing aside unfancied Logrones 3-0.

After Enrique Romero had put Valencia ahead, Romario headed home the second midway through the second half. Tenerife pulled one back shortly afterwards when international goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta was slow to react to a free kick from Bosnian forward Meho Kodro.

But Valencia hung on for their first league win of the season and a valuable morale-booster ahead of the midweek UEFA Cup clash with Bayern Munich.

Atletico's game at Logrones was much less complicated. Radomir Antic's team went ahead on the half-hour when Czech international Radek Bejbl latched on to the ball in midfield and saw his long-range shot deflected over goalkeeper Andoni Cedrun.

With Atletico piling on the pressure, Juan Eduardo Esnaider made it two-nil just before the break after pouncing on a neat through ball by Kiko Narvaez.

Kiko claimed the third goal, a deflection from a shot by Juan Carlos Aguilera, before being substituted twenty minutes from the end.

UEFA Cup side Espanyol reversed their trend of throwing away winning leads by coming from 2-0 down to earn a 2-2 draw at Athletic Bilbao. Francisco Lopez hit the bar with a header just before time as Espanyol pushed for the three points.

Racing Santander's dream of going top ahead of Sunday's games was shattered at Valladolid, where they lost 3-0.



Alistair Edwards of Australia jump over Paul Ochieng of Kenya during the final match for the Four Nations Cup held in Loftus Versveld Stadium in Pretoria. Australia won 4-0 (Reuters photo)

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL:634144 PHILADELPHIA Nadia Jundi..... in ASSASSINATION (ARABIC) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:699238 PLAZA The Arab Cinema Surprise Ahmad Zakiin Naser 56 (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00	CINEMA TEL:677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" Arnold Schwarzenegger & Vanessa Williams....in ERASER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" SYLVESTER STALLONE....in ASSASSINS Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Ammoun Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275 Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled Five-Star Government Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimah & Hussein Tubishat Play starts 8:30 p.m.	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155 PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155 - 640155
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Yankees close in on East title

NEW YORK (R) — It took 15 pitchers, 23 runs, 34 hits and 10 innings, but the New York Yankees pulled out a wild 12-11 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Saturday to move a step closer to capturing the American League East crown.

New York erased deficits of 6-1 and 11-7 to tie the game in the eighth before Derek Jeter's bases-loaded single with two out in the bottom of the 10th brought home the winning run and sent the packed Yankee Stadium crowd into a frenzy.

New York remained four games ahead of Baltimore with a magic number of five for clinching the division crown.

Joe Hudson (3-5), the seventh Boston pitcher, started the 10th and gave up a single to Wade Boggs and walks to Cecil Fielder and Bernie Williams to load the bases with two out.

Jeter then laced a single past diving shortstop Nomar Garciaparra that plated Boggs to end the four hour and 45 minute slugfest. "I always want to be up there in that situation, needing the hit to win," said Jeter, who had three hits and drove in three runs.

Paul O'Neill, who had four hits including one of four New York home runs said: "I don't know what it is about Boston but we seem to play these kind of games with them. It's a great win for us, we'll try to get two more tomorrow."

Tim Lincecum had solo homers in the fifth and sixth innings and fielder celebrated his 33rd birthday by belting his 38th homer, a two-run shot off Pat Mahomes in the sixth.

John Wetteland (2-3), the eighth Yankee hurler, pitched two scoreless innings for the win.

Bill Hasselman had Boston's lone homer off Ricky Bones in the sixth and his two-run double in the seventh put the Red Sox ahead 11-7.

But the Yanks got three runs back in the bottom of the inning with the help of a two-run single by Tino Martinez and tied the game in the ninth on an O'Neill RBI infield single.

In Baltimore, Eddie Murray's 19th career grand slam capped a six-run sixth inning that propelled the Orioles to a 6-3 win over the Toronto Blue Jays.

The Orioles were unable to gain ground on the Yankees but maintained their slim 1/2 game wild card lead over Seattle.

Baltimore was hitless against Woody Williams (4-4) until the sixth. But Williams loaded the bases and reliever Scott Brown walked in two runs before Murray connected for his 22nd homer of the season and 501st of his career to make it 6-2.

Rocky Copping (9-6) gave up two runs on four hits for the victory.

At California, John Burkett pitched eight

strong innings and Rusty Greer, Juan Gonzalez and Dave Valle hit solo homers as the Texas Rangers broke a five-game losing streak to remain atop the West with a 7-1 rout of the Angels.

Burkett (4-2) gave up one run and seven hits with a walk and seven strikeouts to keep the Rangers one game ahead of streaking Seattle after Texas had lost eight games in the standings to the Mariners in nine days.

All three Texas homers came off Jim Abbott, who saw his miserable record fall to 2-17.

In Seattle, Alex Rodriguez, Ken Griffey Jr. and Edgar Martinez and Paul Sorrento homered consecutively in the third inning as the red-hot Mariners won their club-record 10th straight game with a 9-2 rout of the Oakland Athletics.

Seattle also got a two-run homer from Jay Buhner — his 43rd — in the second inning. Oakland starter Dave Telgheder (3-7), who surrendered all four homers, was tagged for six runs and six hits over 2 2/3 innings.

Griffey's homer was number 47. Rodriguez belted his 36th. Martinez now has 26 round-trippers and Sorrento 22 as the Mariners continue to pound the ball during the stretch run.

In Chicago, Brad Radke gave up seven hits and three runs in 6 1/3 innings and four different players drove in Minnesota runs as the Twins dealt the White Sox playoff chances a blow with a 4-3 win.

Wilson Alvarez (15-10) gave up four runs and nine hits to fall to 0-3 for September as Chicago struggles to keep up with Baltimore and Seattle in the wild card playoff hunt.

In Cleveland, Jeff Kent, Ryan Thompson and Tony Pena combined for eight hits, nine RBI and four runs scored to pace the Indians to a 13-4 pasting of the Kansas City Royals.

Kent was 3-for-3 with two RBI. Thompson went 2-for-5 with a three-run homer and Pena was 3-for-4 and drove in four runs to help Orel Hershiser to his 15th win.

The Indians need to win six of their last eight games to reach 100 victories for the second consecutive season.

In Milwaukee, Jeromy Burnitz hit a grand slam and drove in five runs and Jose Valentin added a three-run homer to power the Brewers to a 13-6 win over the Detroit Tigers.

The Brewers bombed Todd Van Poppel (3-8) for 10 runs in just 1 2/3 innings.

Jeff D'Amico (6-6) was credited with the win, despite tying a club record by allowing five home runs, including two to Phil Nevin.

Dodgers beat Padres to increase lead

SAN DIEGO (R) — The Los Angeles Dodgers gave themselves a bit of breathing room in their battle with San Diego for the National League West division pennant by handily thrashing Saturday.

Raul Mondesi had four hits, including a bases-loaded double that keyed a seven-run fifth inning to help the Dodgers increase their lead over San Diego to 1 1/2 games.

Los Angeles has won six of its last eight and closes out the key four-game series with the Padres Sunday.

"It wouldn't necessarily make us comfortable, but it would increase our cushion," Dodgers catcher Mike Piazza said of a possible series-closing win on Sunday.

Ismael Valdes (15-7) won his fourth straight decision, allowing two runs and three hits in seven innings. Scott Sanders (9-5) had his five-game winning streak stopped. He lasted 4 1/3 innings, allowing six runs and seven hits.

The Padres grabbed the lead in the second inning when Jody Reed hit a two-run homer. But Valdes shut San Diego down the rest of the way.

"Jody reed got us on top, but other than that we didn't have a lot going," Padres manager Bruce Bochy said. "They certainly had the pitching."

Eric Karros launched his 33rd homer in the fourth to put Los Angeles on the board and the Dodgers blew the game open in the fifth with the help of Mondesi's three-run double.

In Atlanta, the World Series champion Braves reduced their magic number to two in the east by edging the second-place Montreal Expos 5-4.

Fred McGriff's two-run double in the third put the Braves ahead and Eduardo Perez's two-run homer in the seventh sealed the win for Denny Neagle (16-8).

who allowed two runs on eight hits in 7 1/3 innings. Atlanta can clinch its fifth straight division title with a win over the Expos on Sunday or Monday.

At Florida, Jeff Conine and Devon White led off the ninth inning with back-to-back homers off Billy Wagner to rally the Marlins to a 2-1 victory over the Houston Astros.

The loss pushed Houston 5 1/2 games behind the St. Louis Cardinals for the central division title.

Houston's Doug Drabek and Wagner had combined on a five-hit shutout over the first eight innings with Derek Bell's fourth-inning RBI the only run.

Houston nursed its 1-0 lead until the ninth when Conine led off the inning with his 25th homer. White followed with his game-winning 17th homer.

In San Francisco, Kirk Rueter pitched seven scoreless innings and drove in a run and rookie Catcher Marcus Jensen had three RBI to pace the giants to a 6-2 victory over Colorado, eliminating the Rockies from play-off contention.

Colorado won the wild card playoff berth last season but followed an eight-game winning streak by losing five of six to kill its post-season hopes.

Rueter (6-8) gave up five hits and walked one with six strikeouts. Jamey Wright (4-4) allowed six runs and six hits to suffer the loss.

In Pittsburgh, Rich Loiselle got his first major-league win and Jay Bell capped a five-run third inning with a homer as the Pirates extended their winning streak to 10 games with a 8-3 victory over the Chicago Cubs.

Pittsburgh, in last place in the central division, ironically is riding the longest winning streak in the majors this season.

Loiselle (1-0) gave up three runs and nine hits in five-plus innings. Dave Swartzbaugh (0-1) was tagged for six runs and five hits for the loss.

Carlos Garcia doubled in two runs in the second and the Pirates blew open the game in the third with Bell's three-run blast making it 7-0.

In Philadelphia, Curt Schilling allowed five hits in his league-leading eighth complete game as the Phillies edged the New York Mets 2-1.

Schilling (9-9) walked none and struck out 10 in his second straight complete game. Pete Harnisch (8-12) gave up two runs — one earned — and five hits for a tough defeat.

The score was tied 1-1 in the sixth when Gregg Jefferies and Benito Santiago singled to put runners on the corners. Ruben Amaro grounded into a double play that plated Jefferies with the winning run.

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Ohnmuller Matthias, deputy head of mission at the German Embassy in Amman and Munzer Hunold of the Ministry of Youth exchange documents of an agreement whereby the German side will cooperate with the Kingdom in promoting sport in general and training programmes in particular (photo by Mo'tasem Malki)

Villeneuve wins Portuguese Grand Prix

ESTORIL, PORTUGAL (AFP) — Canadian Jacques Villeneuve scored a dramatic victory in Sunday's Portuguese Grand Prix, denying his Williams-Renault teammate Damon Hill the chance of sealing the world drivers' championship.

Villeneuve overtook race leader Hill after a quick pitstop with 20 of the 70 laps of the Estoril circuit remaining, and then pulled away for his fourth win of the season. Briton Hill will go into the final race of the season — the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka on October 13 — with a nine-point lead over former IndyCar champion Villeneuve, who is in his first season in Formula One.

Hill, who finished second, would have clinched the title if he had won Sunday's race.

Villeneuve will need to win in Japan, with Hill failing to earn a point, if he is to take the title from his teammate at the last gasp.

Hill now has 87 championship points with Villeneuve on 78. A race victory is worth 10 points.

Villeneuve finished the race in 1hr 40min 22.915 secs, 19.96secs ahead of Hill, who was plagued by clutch problems over the late laps.

"I felt pretty confident I could stay but Jacques did a great job coming through the traffic," Hill said. "He found some time in the pit stop. He was really flying."

"I can't be too disap-

pointed. I'm only one point away from the championship."

Two-time world champion Michael Schumacher of Germany was third in his Ferrari, ahead of Frenchman Jean Alesi in a Benetton-Renault.

Eddie Irvine of Ireland was fifth in a Ferrari — his first finish for nine races — with Gerhard Berger of Austria sixth in a Benetton-Renault.

It was the sixth 1-2 finish for Williams-Renault this season.

Villeneuve was familiar with the Estoril track after several testing sessions at the Portuguese circuit.

"My experience helped me a little," Villeneuve said. "I'd done a quick lap before coming into the pits and fought close to Damon to overtake him in the pit stop and that's what happened."

Hill is bidding to emulate his late father Graham Hill, who was world champion in 1962 and 1968 but died in a light plane crash in 1975.

Davis Cup Pioline pulls France level

NANTES (AFP) — Cedric Pioline pulled France level at 2-2 in their Davis Cup semi-final tie here Sunday following his 6-3, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Italy's Renzo Furlan.

France have now won two rubbers in a row, including Saturday's doubles, following their first day calamity when they lost both singles. Now arnaud boetsch and Andrea Gaudenzi compete for a place in the final.

Pioline, world-ranked 17th, needed three hours and four minutes to dispose of 38th-ranked furlan in this third and final day.

By his victory, Pioline made up for his loss in his first singles against 55th-ranked Andrea Gaudenzi.

He broke serve in just the second game and had four break points in the eighth game before eventually claiming the first set 6-3.

In the second set, Pioline had a bad patch and lost his serve in the sixth game, but he rallied in the third set.

He immediately broke Furlan's service and did it again in the fifth game with the aid of a Furlan double fault and a mishit smash by the Italian from a bad lob.

Just one break of service in the fourth set was enough for Pioline, who hit 51 percent first serves against 45 percent for his opponent, to go through decisively.

Boetsch and Gaudenzi, who has a left wrist injury, now fight it out for a final place — Gaudenzi won their only two previous encounters.



Austria's Thomas Muster

Austria's hopes slump as Muster is disqualified

SAO PAULO (AFP) — Thomas Muster was disqualified from Austria's vital Davis Cup world group qualifying showdown with Brazil here Saturday after staging an angry walk-off during the doubles.

Muster, former world No. 1 and 1995 French Open champion, was playing alongside Udo Plumberger and was clearly upset by the jeers and abuse of the partisan home crowd, and he picked up a warning for making an obscene gesture to spectators in the fourth-set.

The Austrians, level-pegging at 1-1 in the tie after Friday's singles, were always trailing Gustavo Kuerten et Jaime Oncins in a tense encounter. Muster, clearly furious with the behaviour and attitude of the South American crowd, stalked off court with the visitors trailing 0-2 in the fifth-set.

The match was immediately awarded to the Brazilians at 7-6 (7/2), 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 2-0.

Muster, who had given Austria a winning start in the tie when he defeated Fernando Meligeni in straight-sets on Friday, will not be allowed to play his reverse singles on Sunday against Gustavo Kuerten.

Match referee Antonio Marques of Portugal confirmed at a meeting attended by officials of both teams that the Austrian No. 1 had been disqualified from playing for the rest of the tie for "unsporting behaviour his place Sunday will be taken by either Clemens Trimmel or Plumberger, and his absence raises a big questionmark over Austria's capability to survive in the world group next season.

The final singles will be between meligeni and Marcus Hipfl.

Hipfl failed to press home Austria's early advantage on Friday when he was beaten in five sets by Kuerten in the second singles — despite leading by two sets to love.

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- Mu'tah University invite specialized and experienced international companies to submit their bids to the tender for the integrated project "A Modern Computer Center at Mu'tah University" involving the supply, erection, start-up, technical assistance, maintenance and training to trainers to handel the equipment.
- Bidders should submit a financial offer to the best terms and conditions available in their countries. This financial offer should be a loan for fully financing the integrated project and available at present to the Government of Jordan including the detailed financing conditions, such as:
- Low interest rate
- grace period
- semi, annual reimbursement.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and collect the Bidding Documents at the Liaison Office of Mu'tah University located on Samir Rifai St.-Jabal Amman between 9:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m Saturday through Thursday beginning September 23, 1996 to October 7, 1996.
- Bidders may offer more updated version of the specific component and equipment called for.
- Prices are to be quoted on the basis CIF Mu'tah University excluding custom duties and other official taxes And charges, but including 12 month on site warranty and installation.
- Specifications should be according to specifications stated in the project document which will be handed to the bidders.
- The offer will be evaluated technically and financially according to our specification and requirement. Contract will be awarded to the best evaluated bidders who would prove capable to carry out the requirements of the contract to be signed.
- A complete set of the Bidding Document may be obtained from above reference office upon submission of a written application and a payment of a non-refundable fee. All payments will be made by a bank draft or certified bank check in the currency of the purchaser's choice or in cash made out in favour of Mu'tah University. The price of purchasing the documents would be the equivalent in Jordanian Dinars or US\$ currency of the following amounts:
* For delivery to personal callers \$ 400.000 per bid document.
* For delivery by local mail to local Bidders by courier Service \$ 450.000 per bid document.
* For delivery to Overseas Bidders by courier Service \$ 550.000 for bid document.

Closing date for the bid submission will be noon at 12 o'clock, on Oct 30 1996. Bids shall have a validity of 60 days.

Mu'tah University

Doubts cast on results of Bosnia elections as vote count goes awry

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia's peace train has been held up by confusion over general election results marred by systematic miscounting and a disturbing potential for fraud.

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) was due to have announced the final outcome on Saturday but postponed it for at least another week.

Once that is done, a 72-hour period ensues for interested parties to appeal against the results or the methods used to reach them. OSCE then has 72 hours to rule on the appeals and only then can it decide whether to certify the outcome.

The elections must be validated to reach the next and pivotal stage of the peace process — forming a union government of Muslims, Serbs and Croats to gradually reverse the wartime carve-up of Bosnia.

But the post-election disarray may cost peace coordinators momentum — a crucial issue in light of early signs of obstruction by Serb separatists — and erode the legitimacy of new governing institutions.

"You are giving the nationalist hardliners (who do not want Bosnia reunified) an excuse to challenge the authenticity of the entire process," said Hrair Balian of the International Crisis Group (ICG), a think tank monitoring post-war Bosnia.

"The vote-count problem is really scandalous. The international community had really lost credibility here."

Critics say the United States, which brokered Bosnia's peace treaty, was so

keen to see pro-unity President Alija Izetbegovic, a Muslim, become head of a new inter-ethnic presidency that OSCE's American-run Bosnia mission declared him the winner last week based on provisional, unchecked results.

Assuming he would be Bosnia's head of state, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) diplomats swiftly engineered an Oct. 3 meeting in Paris between Mr. Izetbegovic and President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia.

But Mr. Izetbegovic's unofficial margin of "victory" over Serb nationalist Momcilo Krajisnik was just 26,000 votes out of 2.4 million cast in the presidency race, current calculations show.

By Saturday, OSCE confidence in the outcome was crumbling as a pervasive pattern of errors in the vote count emerged.

OSCE election overseers had to say they would have "no idea" who really won pending a recount, audit and cross-checks of ballots against voter registration lists.

"We found numerous errors of transcription and errors of addition (by local election workers) and also a series of problems with double entry of results coming at different times from the same counting house," said OSCE adviser John Reid.

He said the discrepancies could involve from a few hundred votes in one municipality to tens of thousands in others. "Our mistake was in trying to rush out the results before they were actually ready and our communications system to get them here (tabulation centre in Sarajevo) just col-

lapsed."

The OSCE insisted problems so far were solely technical in nature. But independent monitors said OSCE's knowledge of the potential maximum electorate was so hazy that serious fraud might account for discrepancies in tabulation as well.

Critics point to provisional indications of a voter turnout that was astronomical by all but the standards of rigged one-party elections in former communist bloc states.

Anywhere from 82 per cent to 104 per cent of Bosnia's registered electorate appeared to have voted, according to preliminary calculations.

In 1990 elections, only 74 per cent turned out — and this was before tens of thousands of people died and two million were displaced in a 43-month-long war that destroyed the country's communications infrastructure.

Surprised by the huge turnout this time, the OSCE on Saturday concluded that its previous estimate of 2.9 million total eligible voters was too low and raised it to 3.2 million.

But the OSCE conceded none of the figures could be precise because municipalities had failed to keep or refused to hand over lists of citizens who died or went missing in the war.

The OSCE sent many thousands of extra ballots out to polling stations because it could not tell in advance where refugees — half of the electorate — would vote.

The OSCE had only one supervisor for every three polling stations to watch for possible abuses.

Badia deputy submits resignation, criticises government, legislature

By Samir Barhoum
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Northern Badia District Deputy Trad Saud Al Qadi on Sunday submitted his resignation from the Lower House of Parliament because of what he termed as the exacerbating living conditions, rising unemployment and corruption.

Dr. Qadi, who was elected to the 80-member House only four months ago to fill a seat left vacant by the death of his brother Nawaf Al Qadi, is the second deputy to resign since the government decided in August to lift bread and fodder subsidies. Karak Deputy Nazih Ammarin submitted his resignation Sept. 1.

At a press conference he convened at the Parliament House to announce his resignation, Dr. Qadi said he was unable to serve his constituents through the legislature because of the government's refusal to cooperate with him but vowed to continue serving the public in his best ability after resigning.

Anticipating more resignations by "disgruntled" colleagues, Dr. Qadi who belongs to a 23-member parliamentary bloc opposed to lifting subsidies, said the living conditions in Jordan had become intolerable and warned of "an imminent

explosion."

"Our people will explode one day if things remain as they are. (The situation) is now like a time bomb," Dr. Qadi declared, expressing hope that such an explosion would be averted.

The deputy called on both the government and the House to submit their resignations and contended the House had become a toy in the hands of the executive authority.

In his letter of resignation addressed to House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Sour, Dr. Qadi, a former minister of health and ambassador, said that instead of tackling the major problem of unemployment, which he said was plaguing the country in general and the northern Badia regions in particular, the government decided to lift bread and fodder subsidies, which led to raising the prices of hundreds of other commodities, including medicine.

"This added to the psychological pain suffered by the poor, who constitute the absolute majority of our people, and this unjustified lifting of subsidies was like the straw that broke the camel's back," he said.

In addition, he continued, the government was unable to help "hundreds of young university and community college graduates as well as other individuals and wid-

ows looking for an honest job... at a time when the Prime Ministry itself and even Parliament employ foreigners."

The deputy said he did his best to help these people, trying to mediate with the prime minister and other officials to be met only with "empty answers although job opportunities were granted to those who have links with the government."

Another reason for the resignation was what he termed as the clampdown on public freedoms and oppression "of all those who try to speak out against the tragedies of hunger, poverty, soaring prices and unemployment as was the case with the people of south (Jordan)," he said in reference to last August's riots, which followed the government's decision to lift bread and fodder subsidies.

The executive authority, continued the deputy in his resignation letter, only listens to those who support any government in office and to those who tamper with the livelihood of the people.

Dr. Qadi said his district was suffering the lack of infrastructure and his letters and memos to the authorities did not produce results.

(Continued on page 7)



A Jewish girl kneels on the ground reciting a prayer in a market area of the ultra-orthodox Jewish neighbourhood of Mea Shearim as a friend twirls a white rooster over her head as she performs the "kaparot" prior to the start of Yom Kippur (Reuters photo)

Israel shuts itself down for Jewish 'day of atonement'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Shops closed, public transportation came to a halt, and most Israeli Jews stopped eating and drinking Sunday evening for 24 hours of soul-searching and prayer. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a call for national unity, making a rare reference to the assassination of his rival Yitzhak Rabin a year ago.

"On this day we remember that our strength is in the unity of the people and not in its division, in the love of Israel and not the hatred of brothers, in mutual understanding and not violent expressions like the ones that cut down the life of our prime minister," he said in a message broadcast on Israel Radio.

Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of atonement, culminates 10 days of repentance that began with Rosh Hashana, the new year, on Sept. 14.

A poll conducted for Israel's Yediot Achronot newspaper found that 73 per cent of 552 Israelis questioned said they would fast on Yom Kippur. Sixty-nine per cent said they go to synagogue on the holiday.

Even among the 52 per cent of

Arafat congratulates Netanyahu

PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT Yasser Arafat called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday to wish him "Shana Tova" — a happy Jewish new year. Mr. Netanyahu's office said the prime minister thanked Mr. Arafat in the phone call on the eve of Yom Kippur, and said: "We stand at the start of a year that will be a good year for Israel and the Palestinians."

Before his election in May, the right-wing Netanyahu vowed never to meet the Palestinian leader as prime minister. Under U.S. pressure, he met Mr. Arafat on Sept. 4.

An Israeli statement said Mr. Netanyahu voiced disappointment during the phone call at Palestinian charges there had been no progress in peace negotiations.

"The reality as everyone knows is different and there is progress all the time," said the statement. It did not elaborate.

Israeli Jews who define themselves as secular, more than half said they fast on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar.

Before the start of the holiday, some Jews went to marketplaces where they waved live chickens in a circle above their heads in a symbolic ridding of sins. The chickens are traditionally slaughtered and given to the poor.

Police were on high alert fol-

lowing a declaration by the militant Islamic Jihad organisation that the group would resume suicide attacks against Israel. A wave of suicide bombings killed 63 people last February and March.

Israel intensified its seven-month closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, barring the entry of all Palestinians during the holiday. The closure was to be eased at 4 a.m. (10:00 GMT) Tuesday morning.

Sudan slams Ethiopia in Mubarak case

KHARTOUM (AP) — A Sudanese official says that if Ethiopia executes three men convicted for the attempted assassination of Egypt's president, it will kill Sudan's chances of proving it wasn't involved in the attack.

Inayat Abdul Hameed, chairman of the Sudan parliament's foreign relations committee, was quoted Sunday by the daily Al Rai Al Amn as saying that the execution would "bury the evidence surrounding the

case."

An Ethiopian court on Friday convicted three Egyptians of the attack against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in 1995 and sentenced them to death.

The incident occurred in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa as Mr. Mubarak arrived for an African summit. He was unhurt. Both Ethiopia and Egypt have accused Sudan of involvement.

The United Nations has imposed diplomatic sanc-

tions to try to force Sudan to hand over three Egyptian suspects still at large. The U.N. Security Council is considering a resolution to expand the sanctions to include a ban on flights by Sudan's national carrier, Sudan Air, to and from the country. Sudan has denied involvement in the attack and says the wanted men are not in the country.

Mr. Abdul Hameed called on the Security Council to look for the perpetrators outside Sudan.

House committee assails Israel's settlement drive

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament's Palestine Committee on Sunday deplored Israel's settlement activities in the occupied territories as a plot aimed at "Judaizing and devouring most of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

In a statement it issued following an emergency meeting, the committee said Israel's continued expansion of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was made possible by support from the U.S. and other countries and by the feeble position of the Arab countries and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The committee said Israeli settlement policies contravene United Nations Security Council resolutions which stipulate that Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are occupied territories, adding that expanding settlements were meant to abort Palestinian sovereignty and the right of return of Palestinian refugees.

"Therefore, the Palestine Committee of the Jordanian Lower House of Parliament voices its condemnation of this policy and appeals to the PNA and the Arab and Muslim countries to adopt a firm stand in the face of Jewish-Zionist assault and to repeal all agreements signed with the Zionist entity," read the committee's statement.

It further urged Arab and Muslim countries to mobilise their peoples and enable them to shoulder their responsibilities towards Palestine and appealed to the world nations to work to stop settlement activities.

Last week, the Israeli government authorised the dispatch of 13 mobile homes to West Bank settlements a day after police blocked their deployment.

As part of its policy of expanding Jewish settlements in the territories, the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu decided last month to authorise the dispatch of 300 mobile homes to existing settlements.

Press reports on Friday said Jewish groups bought nearly 50 Palestinian buildings in Arab East Jerusalem and have begun moves to take possession of them.

Corn circles crop up again — in Finland

HELSINKI (R) — Corn circles, the large round indentations in fields of crops which in the early 1990s sparked controversy and talk of alien visitors in Britain, have appeared in Finland, a newspaper reported. Two of the circles

— initially claimed in Britain to be the tracks of flying saucers but since widely dismissed as hoaxes — were found in the Helsinki suburb of Espoo and have set UFO watchers buzzing, daily Helsingin Sanomat said. "At first we thought of reporting vandalism. But when we went for a closer look at the patterns, we realised that they could not have been made by humans," said Birger Nymalm, agronomist at Soderkog Manor where the rings were found. "The patterns were made from the air. The field around them was completely untouched." Mr. Nymalm was quoted as saying. The rings, the largest measuring about 30 metres across, appeared on the night of Aug. 24 in two fields about three kilometres apart. Police have said they will not investigate unless someone reports a crime.

Munich mayor unleashes Bavarian beer binge

MUNICH, Germany (R) — Munich's mayor opened the annual Oktoberfest celebration of beer and bratwurst, sampling the first of an estimated six million litres of beer which will be consumed during the festival. To traditional Bavarian cries of "o'zapft is" (the keg is tapped), Mayor Christian Ude opened the first keg of the 16-day festival, which takes place in a huge tented village erected on parkland in the centre of the city. The Lederhosen-Clad landlords who run the bars in tents began the day with a colourful procession through the city to the festival site, watched by tens of thousands of onlookers. Officials expect around seven million visitors. Some come to dance on the tables of the tents late at night with oom-pah music ringing in their ears while others will head for the beer halls of the big breweries. One of the main headaches for organisers has been providing sufficient toilets. There will be 556 toilets for women and 185 for men at this year's festival. The total length of the urinal "troughs" for the men adds up to 785 metres (2,575 ft).

Winnie Mandela comforts mugged tourists with tea

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Three foreign tourists robbed in Soweto were taken in for tea and sympathy by a local homeowner, but none of them recognised her as South Africa's former first lady, Winnie Mandela. The Saturday Star newspaper said a Briton and two Swiss tourists were being guided round the crime-ridden township Tuesday when they were robbed at gunpoint. In shock, they knocked at the nearest house in Soweto's "Beverly Hills" suburb and said what had happened to them. Winnie, recently divorced from President Nelson Mandela in March, comforted them with tea and took them to the police station where she finally revealed who she was. "This is amazing. It's like being mugged outside 10 Downing Street and Norma Major invites you in for a cup of tea," said Florida resident Sue Broomfield, referring to British Prime Minister John Major's wife. "We shouldn't have got out of the car. No one warned us of this type of danger," said Verena Arnold, 66, on holiday from Switzerland with her friend Anny Jenk, 76.

Hysteria or signs of alien invasion? UFO craze hits Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — It's not the invasion Israel feared most.

But aliens alighting in the holy land are grabbing the headlines these days, with a flurry of media reports on unidentified flying object (UFO) sightings and abductions by extraterrestrial in egg-shaped spacecrafts.

"The great invasion," read a headline in the Maariv daily above a list of 16 examples of UFO sightings in the past three months. Last week, Maariv said, hundreds stopped on a major highway and stared at

what looked like an alien spacecraft doing loops above Tel Aviv before dawn.

A 62-year-old Israeli who said he was abducted by aliens on his way to the post office was interviewed on television and radio. The story made front-page news for a second day this week when a lab analysis of yellow dust he says was showered on him by his captors was different from any soil found in the area.

Sceptics say Israelis are simply being swept away by U.S. pop culture. The movie

Independence Day — about an Alien invasion of earth — is a blockbuster here. The "X-Files" series — about two federal agents who investigate paranormal phenomena — is one of the most popular television shows. "I strongly believe that what we have now is hysterical behaviour," said Ariel Cohen, an atmospheric physicist at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Mr. Cohen said analysis of video footage of alleged UFO sightings suggested cameramen had adjusted the focus to make subjects seem

unnatural. Others note Israel's airspace is known to host a secretive — but earthly — air force. Still, Mr. Cohen said the authorities should investigate sightings and publish the scientific explanations that could be found in most cases.

Social scientists, however, are fascinated by the craze. Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi, a psychology professor at Haifa University, says people in modern societies are susceptible to quasi-religious fantasies that send the message "you are not alone." Israelis, who live

under a perceived military threat from their Arab neighbours, are particularly vulnerable.

"Israelis consider themselves to be very cynical and hardened," Mr. Beit-Hallahmi said. "The Israelis are actually the greatest suckers in the world."

True believers are convinced dramatic events are at hand. One incident even made police look up and take notice.

Before dawn Tuesday, Tel Aviv's police switchboard received dozens of calls from people who said they

saw a glowing object doing loops over the suburb of Ramat Aviv.

Police spokesman Gadi Doron said officers reported that they also saw a strange light in the night sky, along with hundreds gathered at the scene.

Questions also linger over the case of Uri Sakhov, a retiree who said he was en route to the post office when he was grabbed by his hair and collar and pulled into an egg-shaped spacecraft. His captors were green, reached up to his chest and made unintelligible sounds. Mr.

Sakhov said. Scientists who analysed the yellow dust on Mr. Sakhov found it contained 55 per cent aluminium and was different from area soil.

Michael Kobi, marketing manager at the lab that examined the dust, said samples were sent to NASA, the U.S. space agency.

Mr. Kobi said its unusual composition suggested the UFO sightings could not be easily dismissed. "If you combine all the incidents together, there might be something there," he said.